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BATMAN

BAT MAN

NO. 260
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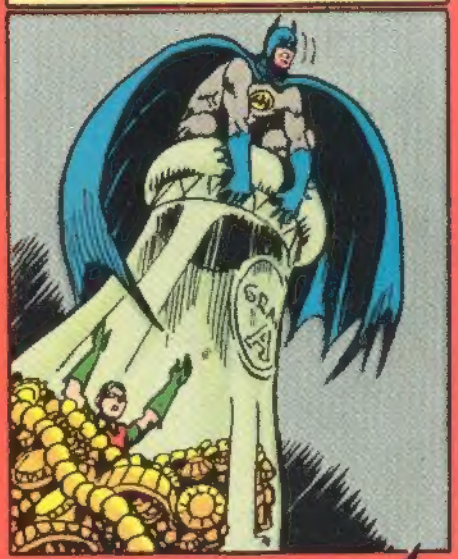
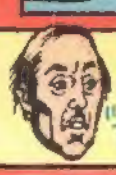
"THE RIDDLER'S PRISON-PUZZLE PROBLEM!"

"THE GRADE A CRIMES!"





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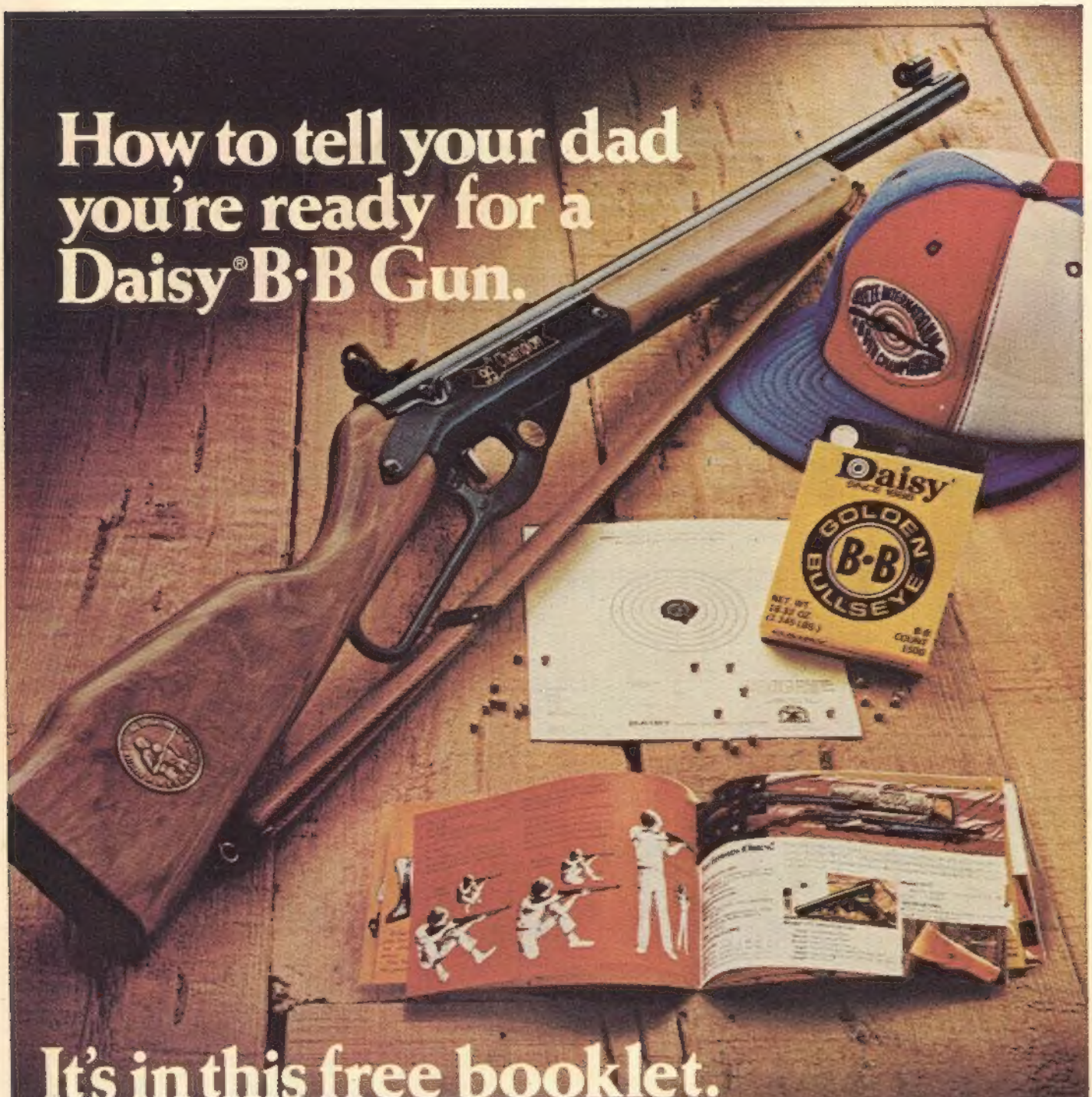

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100
PAGE
BATMAN
FEATURING THE MOST BAFFLING MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE!
A NEW CLASH BETWEEN THE BATMAN and THE JOKER!
"THIS ONE'LL KILL YOU, BATMAN!"
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WHAT WAS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN MYSTERIOUS THEFTS AND A MILKMAN?
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A NEW BATMAN THRILLER
HEY, BATMAN, HEARD ANY GOOD ONES LATELY? YOU KNOW --JOKES! YOKS! GAGS! BOFFOLAS! WELL, WE HAVE! ALL ABOUT THIS JOKER, SEE-- AND HOW HE DOES THIS HILARIOUS REVENGE BIT.
KNOW WHO HIS VICTIM IS? HANG ON, BATMAN, THIS'LL GRAB YOU! THE VICTIM IS-- READY, BATMAN?--THE VICTIM IS Y-O-U!
Story: DENNY O'NEIL
Art: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO
Editing: JULIUS SCHWARTZ
WAIT--DON'T GO 'WAY--NOT TILL YOU'VE HEARD THE PUNCH LINE! NO KIDDING--
"This One'll KILL You, BATMAN!"
S-1806
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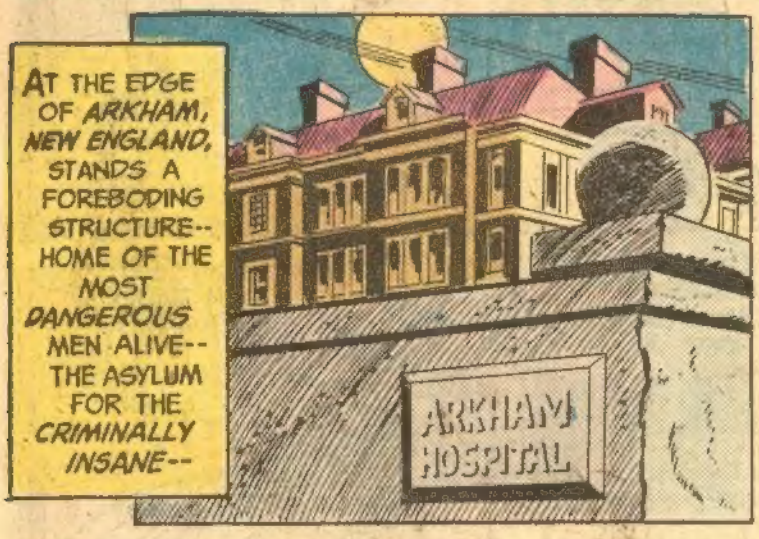
CHAPTER 1: "AND IF I LAUGH..."


AT THE EDGE OF ARKHAM, NEW ENGLAND, STANDS A FOREBODING STRUCTURE-- HOME OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEN ALIVE-- THE ASYLUM FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE--
ARKHAM HOSPITAL

INSIDE, ALL IS ROUTINE! NO ONE CAN GUESS THAT CHAOS IS ABOUT TO ERUPT...
HERE'S YOUR JAVA, AL!
THANKS, PETE! SAY, YOU SEEN TODAY'S PAPER? THE NEWS IS GRIM!

AND ELSEWHERE, THE INSTITUTION'S MOST FAMOUS INMATE IS BEING SERVED SUPPER--
YOUR FAVORITE, JOKER... HEH HEH HEH HEH... FAVORITE FOOD--!
SOMETHING TICKLING YOUR WARPED SENSE OF HUMOR, GUARD?

HA HA HA HA!
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE--AN APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE... EVEN WHEN THE LAUGH'S ON HIM!
ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO LEAVE THROUGH THIS KITCHEN DOOR AND HOP IN THE CAR MY ACCOMPLICE PLANTED--
I'VE TAKEN CARE OF YOUR CAR, JOKER--NOW I'M TAKING CARE OF YOU!
THE BATMAN--! I ANTICIPATED YOU'D "CRASH" MY COMING-OUT PARTY!
THAT'S WHY I INVITED SOME OTHER GUESTS--
--MY FELLOW-INMATES WHOSE CELL-DOORS I UNLOCKED ON THE WAY OUT!
THEY TELL ME THEY'RE CRAZY TO MEET YOU!
SNARLING, THE MADMEN CHARGE...
HOW DELIGHTFUL! WHATEVER HAPPENS TO THE BATMAN, THE LAW CAN'T HOLD THESE HOMICIDAL MANIACS RESPONSIBLE!
3

THE FIRST TWO STOP AS THOUGH HIT WITH A WALL!
A MASTER OF UNARMED COMBAT IS THE BATMAN... KUNG FU--
--AND JUDO...
...AND AIKIDO...
...AND PLAIN OLD FISTICUFFS--!
BUT THE ODDS ARE A DOZEN TO ONE... AND HIS FOES FIGHT WITH THE DESPERATE STRENGTH OF MADNESS!
STILL, HE MIGHT WIN--
4

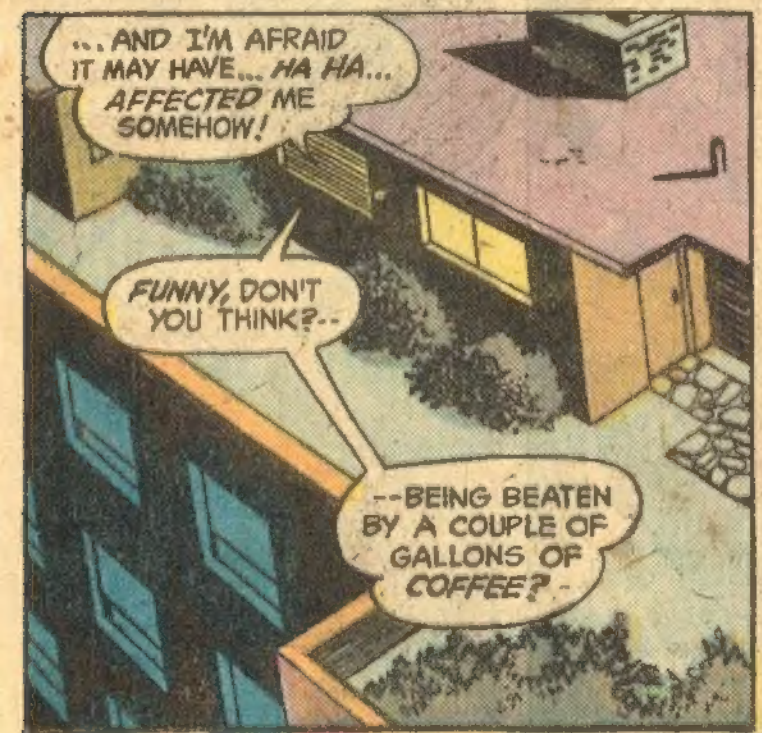
--EXCEPT FOR A TREACHEROUS ATTACK FROM BEHIND! THE HEAVY COFFEE URN STRIKES... AND AS THE BATMAN FALLS, HE IS SPLASHED WITH SCALDING LIQUID--
HA HA HA--
COME ON, MARCUS!
YEAH... SOON AS I STOMP HIM TO DEATH!
HOWEVER...
SORRY, MARCUS--
--YOU'RE A FRIEND... AND THE BATMAN IS AN ENEMY!
NEVERTHELESS, I CAN'T LET YOU KILL HIM!
TWO-FACE--?!
IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO THANK ME, BATMAN--DON'T!
I HAD TO SAVE YOU!
I TOSSED MY COIN--
--AND THE GOOD SIDE LANDED FACE UP!
BELIEVE ME, IF THE BAD SIDE HAD, I'D HAVE HELPED HIM KILL YOU!
5

THEN IT WAS YOU WHO TIPPED ME THE JOKER WAS PLANNING AN ESCAPE!
YES... I OVERHEARD HIM SCHEMING TO LOAD THE GUARD'S COFFEE WITH HIS LAUGHING DRUG!
I TOSSED THE COIN AND...

...AND AGAIN THE GOOD SIDE WON!
EXACTLY! MAYBE I OUGHT TO GET A NEW COIN!
THIS ONE HAS A NASTY HABIT OF BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN ME!

LATER, IN THE PENTHOUSE ATOP THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING IN THE HEART OF GOTHAM CITY...
I STILL CAN'T SEEM TO CLEAR MY HEAD, ALFRED!
I DON'T WONDER, MASTER BRUCE! YOU'VE A WRETCHED BUMP!
IT'S NOT THAT--

--I'D NEED A COMPUTER TO COUNT THE SKULL KNOCKS I'VE TAKEN... AND I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED SYMPTOMS LIKE THESE!
I MUST HAVE SWALLOWED A LOT OF THE DRUGGED COFFEE... HA HA...


...AND I'M AFRAID IT MAY HAVE... HA HA... AFFECTED ME SOMEHOW!
FUNNY, DON'T YOU THINK?--
--BEING BEATEN BY A COUPLE OF GALLONS OF COFFEE?

ANYWAY, HOLD THE FORT, ALFRED! HA-HA-HA--
I'M PLAYING SAFE AND SEEING DR. HAMISH! HE'S AN EXPERT IN BIZARRE CHEMICALS!

THEN, AT A NEARBY LABORATORY...
GOOD EVENING, DOCTOR!
WHO... THE BATMAN--!
YOU STARTLED ME!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
I GOT A MASSIVE DOSE OF THE JOKER'S DRUG AND, FRANKLY, IT HAS ME WORRIED!
IT SHOULD! I'VE STUDIED THE PREPARATION... NASTY STUFF!
ONLY TWO MEN IN THE WORLD ARE QUALIFIED TO PREPARE AN ANTIDOTE--
--DOCTOR ROCKWELL IN LONDON IS ONE...
...AND, FORTUNATELY, I AM THE OTHER!
R-RINNGG!
EXCUSE ME, SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!
FLOWERS FOR DR. HAMISH!
BUT I DIDN'T ORDER ANY--
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, DOC!
MMM... THEY ARE LOVELY... FRAGRANT...
DOCTOR... I DON'T LIKE THE SMELL OF THIS!
GET RID OF 'EM-- QUICK!
BUT BEFORE THE SCIENTIST CAN OBEY--
T-SSSSSS
G-- GAS...
CHOKE!
DOCTOR!
AGHH!
7

HE'S DEAD!
A CARD DROPPED FROM THE BOUQUET!
EVEN BEFORE I LOOK, I KNOW IT MUST BE--
--A JOKER!
JOKER
THAT CLOWN MAY VARY HIS TRICKS--BUT NOT HIS M.O.!
HOW DROLL-- TO USE AN OLD PRACTICAL JOKE TO SNUFF THE MAN WHO COULD HELP ME!
...NO! FUNNY IT'S NOT! I'VE GOT TO NAB A MURDERER!
THE PHONY DELIVERYMAN CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN TOO FAR--
THERE HE IS... JUST STANDING THERE!
WHAT'S HE DOING --WAITING FOR A BUS?
NO... BATMAN-- JUST WAITIN' FOR YOU!
I'M GONNA FINISH THE JOB I STARTED AT THE ASYLUM!
MY WOULD-BE STOMPER--MARCUS!
OKAY, CREEP-- YOU'VE HAD YOUR SWING--
8

--MY TURN NOW!
AND ANOTHER FOR GOOD MEASURE--!
HA! THAT'S A LAUGH-- REACHING FOR A GUN!
GO AHEAD-- IT'D BE MY PLEASURE TO WRECK YOU!
NO GUN! THE BOSS SAID THAT IF YOU CAUGHT ME I WAS TO GIVE YOU THIS--
A POCKET-SIZED TAPE-RECORDER!
YEAH... WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE JOKER!
CLICK!
LISTEN, BATMAN-- THIS ONE'LL KILL YOU!
THAT DRINK OF COFFEE YOU HAD IN THE ASYLUM WAS DRUGGED! ITS EFFECTS WILL KEEP INCREASING... AND IN 72 HOURS YOU'LL LAUGH YOURSELF TO DEATH!
A FITTING REVENGE FOR THE JOKER, YOU WILL AGREE..?

REE-DICULOUS! HE EXPECTS ME TO BELIEVE HIS CRAZY STORY?
IF DR. HAMISH'S MURDER WEREN'T SO TRAGIC--
--I WOULD LAUGH--
--IN FACT, I WILL!
HAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHA
HAHA HAHA
LAUGHTER... GALES OF HOWLING MIRTH SHUDDER THROUGH THE NIGHT--
--AND END IN A HORRIFIED GASP! THE BATMAN WHISPERS HARSHLY...
IT'S TRUE!
IT MUST BE... ALL TRUE!
THE JOKER SAID I HAVE THREE DAYS!
PLENTY OF TIME TO BATJET TO LONDON...
...AND TO CONSULT WITH THE DR. ROCKWELL THAT HAMISH MENTIONED!
BUT BEFORE I LEAVE, I MUST PAY MY LAST RESPECTS!
LAST RESPECTS? HOW AMUSING!
A CHUCKLE RISES IN HIM... A GUFFAW... AND HIS BODY TREMBLES WITH THE TREMENDOUS EFFORT OF KEEPING THE TERRIBLE SOUND LOCKED WITHIN--!
10

CHAPTER 2: "...'TIS THAT I MAY NOT WEEP!"

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, THE BATMAN, IN HIS BRUCE WAYNE IDENTITY, VISITS A FUNERAL HOME...
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR DR. HAMISH'S DEATH--
THE JOKER MURDERED HIM JUST TO PREVENT HIM FROM SAVING MY LIFE!
HOW FUNNY HE LOOKS LYING IN THAT COFFIN--
--VERY FUNNY...!
11

M-MASTER BRUCE--?
HURRY, ALFRED--GET ME TO...HAHAHA ...AIRFIELD... HA-HA-HA!
WHA
HA HA
PHONED DR. ROCKWELL--
--AND HE'S STANDING BY TO TREAT ME...
THANK GOD...THE GHOULISH LAUGHTER IS OVER...FOR THE PRESENT...
IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, THE BATMAN IS AIRBORNE AND LOST IN THOUGHT...
12

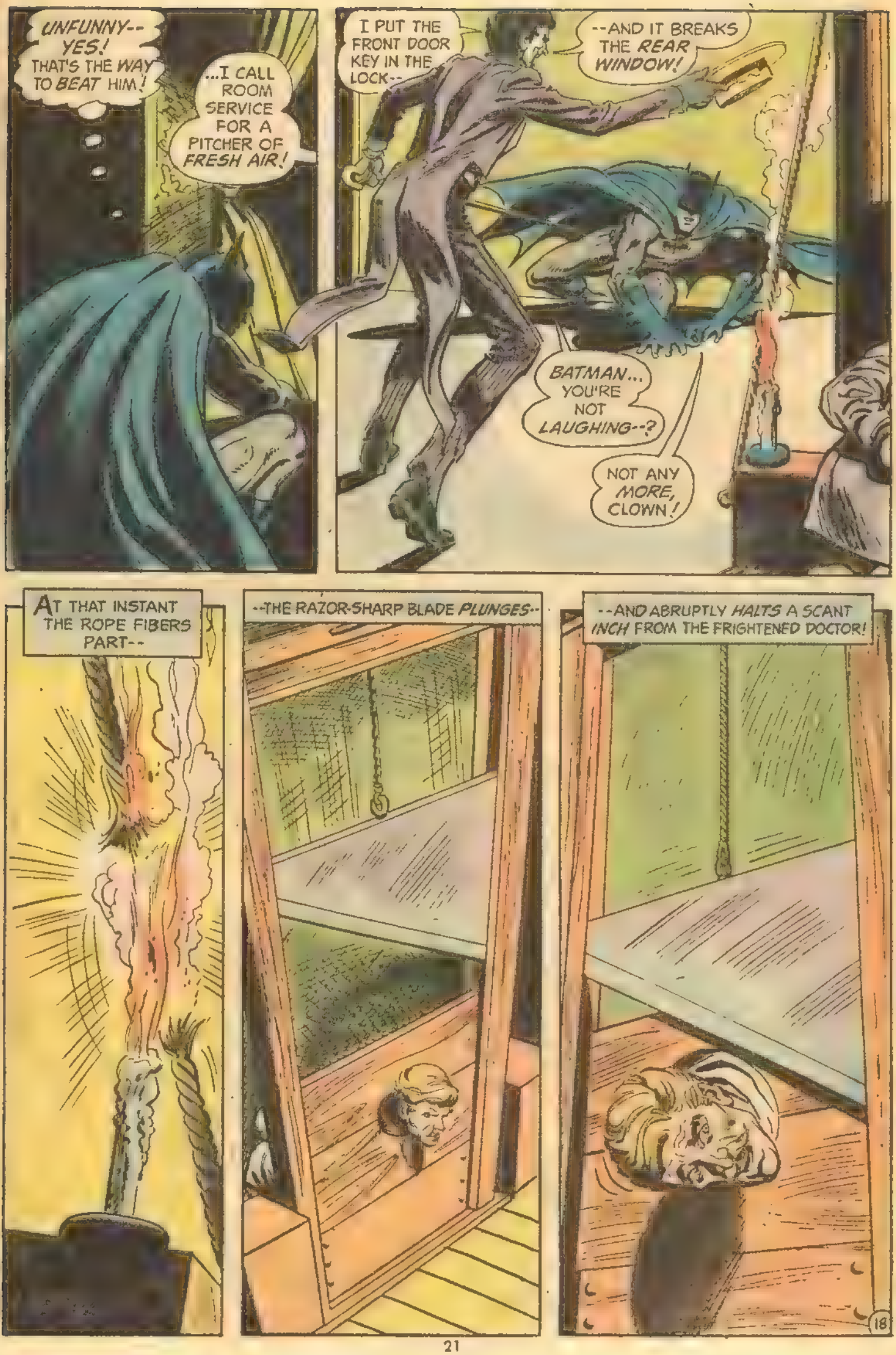
LONDON-- A THICK FOG MASKS A CAPED FORM STEALING SILENTLY ALONG AN EXCLUSIVE STREET TOWARD THE ROCKWELL RESIDENCE..
IT'S SO SILENT... I'M HAVING TROUBLE BELIEVING I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A METROPOLIS!
HELP!
UH-OH... NOT SILENT ANY LONGER!
I HAVE AN UGLY HUNCH I KNOW WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT WINDOW--
--THE JOKER... AND TWO OF HIS STOOGES!
BATMAN, ESQUIRE! WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
K-RASH!
YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, STOOGES-- EXECUTE THEM!
WE'RE TO PLAY GOOD GUY VERSUS THUGS, HUH?
TIRESOME...
...BUT AT LEAST THE EXERCISE KEEPS ME IN SHAPE!
HA!--THAT WASN'T A BAD QUIP!
IN FACT, I CONSIDER MY HUMOR... HA-HA-HA...
HI-HI-HILARIOUS!
13

LIGHTS OUT FOR YOU, BUDDY! HO-HAH-HAA!
HOO-BOY...THE WORSE THE JOKES GET, THE HARDER I LAUGH!
A KARATE-CHOP IN THE LIVER FOR YOU, BATMAN!
HEY--THAT GIVES ME--
--CHOPPED LIVER!
HAHAHA... JOKER--YOU'RE TOO MUCH!
THAT'S USING YOUR HEAD!
HA HA-HA-HA-HA-
DOUBLED UP FROM LAUGHTER... CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF...
I COULD FINISH YOU NOW--BUT YOU STILL HAVE SOME TIME REMAINING BEFORE THE FUN-FILLED FINALE!
WHACK!
MEANWHILE, HERE'S SOMETHING TO KEEP YOU AMUSED--
--IT'S AN IDEA IN THE COMEDY MANNER!
I CHALLENGE YOU TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THE DOCTOR AND I WILL BE AT MIDNIGHT, WHEN I SLAY HIM!
THEN...TRY TO STOP ME... IF YOU CAN!
HAHAHA... CAN HARDLY WAIT...TO DO... JUST THAT!

AGONIZING MOMENTS LATER...
"WHEW!" AS IF I DON'T HAVE PLENTY OF PROBLEMS ALREADY... HE GIVES ME A PUZZLE TO SOLVE!
WHERE DO I LOOK--? WHAT DID HE SAY?-- AN "IDEA IN THE COMEDY MANNER"...
GOT IT--JOKER HID HIS CLUE IN A PUN!
COMEDY MANNER EQUALS COMEDY MANOR--
--A THEATRE, ONCE A RENOWNED LONDON MUSIC HALL WHERE THE GREATS CONVULSED AUDIENCES ...ENTERTAINERS LIKE CHAPLIN, FIELDS, THE MARX BROTHERS...
...NOW DARK AND SILENT EXCEPT FOR THE SCURRYING OF RATS AND THE GROAN OF ANCIENT TIMBERS...
...STANDING LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLY OLD DOWAGER REMEMBERING YOUTH, BEAUTY, GAIETY...
COMEDY MANOR
...HOSTESS THIS SHROUDED NIGHT TO THE BATMAN...
MY TRANSLATION OF THE JOKER'S CLUE WAS RIGHT! THE DUST HAS BEEN RECENTLY DISTURBED!
HE PROBABLY EXPECTS ME TO SNEAK IN BY WINDOW OR ROOF--
--SO I'LL SURPRISE HIM BY BOLDLY WALKING IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE!
AHH...I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T DISAPPOINT ME, BATMAN--!

READY-- SHOW'S ABOUT TO BEGIN! NOW...
...LOOK AT DR. ROCKWELL-- BOUND IN A GUILLOTINE!
WHICH REMINDS ME--YOU KNOW WHAT A GUILLOTINE IS?
--A PERMANENT CURE FOR DANDRUFF!
THAT'S A...HA HA HA... T-TERRIBLE J-JOKE!
OBSERVE...THE ROPE HOLDING THE BLADE IS NEXT TO A BURNING CANDLE!
IN PRECISELY THREE MINUTES--
--THE FLAME WILL BURN DOWN TO THE ROPE...
...AND THEN...
...THE BLADE WILL DROP AND PART THE DOC'S HAIR-- TO HIS ANKLES!
AND YOUR HOPE FOR A LIFE-SAVING CURE WILL BE KAPUT!
H-H-HORRIBLE... HA HA HA HA HA
NATURALLY YOU'LL WANT TO SAVE HIM! BUT YOU WON'T... BECAUSE I'LL KEEP YOU ENTERTAINED!
DID YOU KNOW I'M WRITING A SONG IN HONOR OF MY MOTHER-IN-LAW?
SAY, ANYBODY GOT A RHYME FOR HATCHET-FACE?
16

HEARD MY OTHER SONG?
"SHE WAS ONLY A PRINTER'S DAUGHTER, BUT SHE WASN'T MY TYPE!"
MISERABLE... YET I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING!
HA-HA-HA-HA
THEN THERE'S THE PRISONER'S SONG--
"I FRIED FOR YOU!"
DON'T STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE--"SHE WAS ONLY AN UMPIRE'S DAUGHTER, BUT SHE WAS NEVER SAFE WHEN SHE WAS OUT!"
HA-HA-HA
LIMBS TREMBLING... RIBS ACHING... WITH HIS BRUTAL, UNCONTROLLABLE LAUGHTER!
THE ROPE'S SMOLDERING! ONLY BARE SECONDS LEFT TO SAVE DR. ROCKWELL!
HOW ABOUT THIS ONE, BATMAN?--
"I JUST FLEW IN FROM GOTHAM, AND GEE, MY ARMS ARE TIRED!"
WOULD YOU BELIEVE MY HOTEL ROOM IS SO SMALL THE MICE ARE HUNCHBACKED!
MUST CONCENTRATE... BLOCK HIS VOICE--AND THOSE HIDEOUSLY UNFUNNY JOKES!
17


UNFUNNY-- YES! THAT'S THE WAY TO BEAT HIM!
...I CALL ROOM SERVICE FOR A PITCHER OF FRESH AIR!
I PUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY IN THE LOCK--
--AND IT BREAKS THE REAR WINDOW!
BATMAN... YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING--?
NOT ANY MORE, CLOWN!
AT THAT INSTANT THE ROPE FIBERS PART--
--THE RAZOR-SHARP BLADE PLUNGES--
--AND ABRUPTLY HALTS A SCANT INCH FROM THE FRIGHTENED DOCTOR!
18

SORRY I WASN'T FASTER! I HAD A BIT OF FIGURING TO DO!
I'LL HAUL YOU FROM THERE--
--AND UNTIE YOU AS SOON AS I'VE DEALT WITH THE JOKER!
FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE THEATRE! FELLA ASKED ME FOR TWENTY DOLLARS FOR A CUP OF TEA--
--I SAID TEA IS ONLY A DIME AND...
...UGGH...
...AND HE SAID MMF! I'M A BIG TIPPER!
SAVE 'EM, JOKER! AS QUEEN VICTORIA REMARKED--
"--WE ARE NOT AMUSED!"
19

DAWN IN LONDON...A GLORIOUSLY HOT SUN BURNS AWAY THE FOG AND WARMS THIS SUBURBAN HOSPITAL...
I'VE INJECTED YOU WITH THE ANTIDOTE TO THE JOKER'S SERUM, BATMAN!
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS IN A MINUTE!
WHILE WE WAIT...MAY I ASK HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE SERUM LAST NIGHT --AND SAVE MY LIFE?
SIMPLE, DOCTOR--
I REASONED THAT THE DRUG CAUSED ME TO LAUGH WHEN I WAS CONFRONTED BY HORROR... DEATH... VIOLENCE!
THEREFORE, I THEORIZED THAT SOMETHING GENUINELY FUNNY WOULD AFFECT ME THE OPPOSITE WAY!
SO I SIMPLY CONCENTRATED ON THE FUNNIEST SCENES FROM ALL THE MARX BROTHERS PICTURES!
BRILLIANT! AND NOW IT'S TIME TO TEST THE ANTIDOTE! PAY CLOSE ATTENTION--
A FORK SAYS TO A SPOON, "WHO WAS THAT LADLE I CAUGHT YOU WITH?"
THE SPOON REPLIES--
"THAT WAS NO LADLE, THAT WAS MY KNIFE!"
A TRULY HORRIBLE JEST-- AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN CRACK A SMILE!
CONGRATULATIONS, DOCTOR!
YOUR CURE IS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS!
THE END
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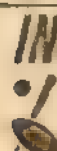

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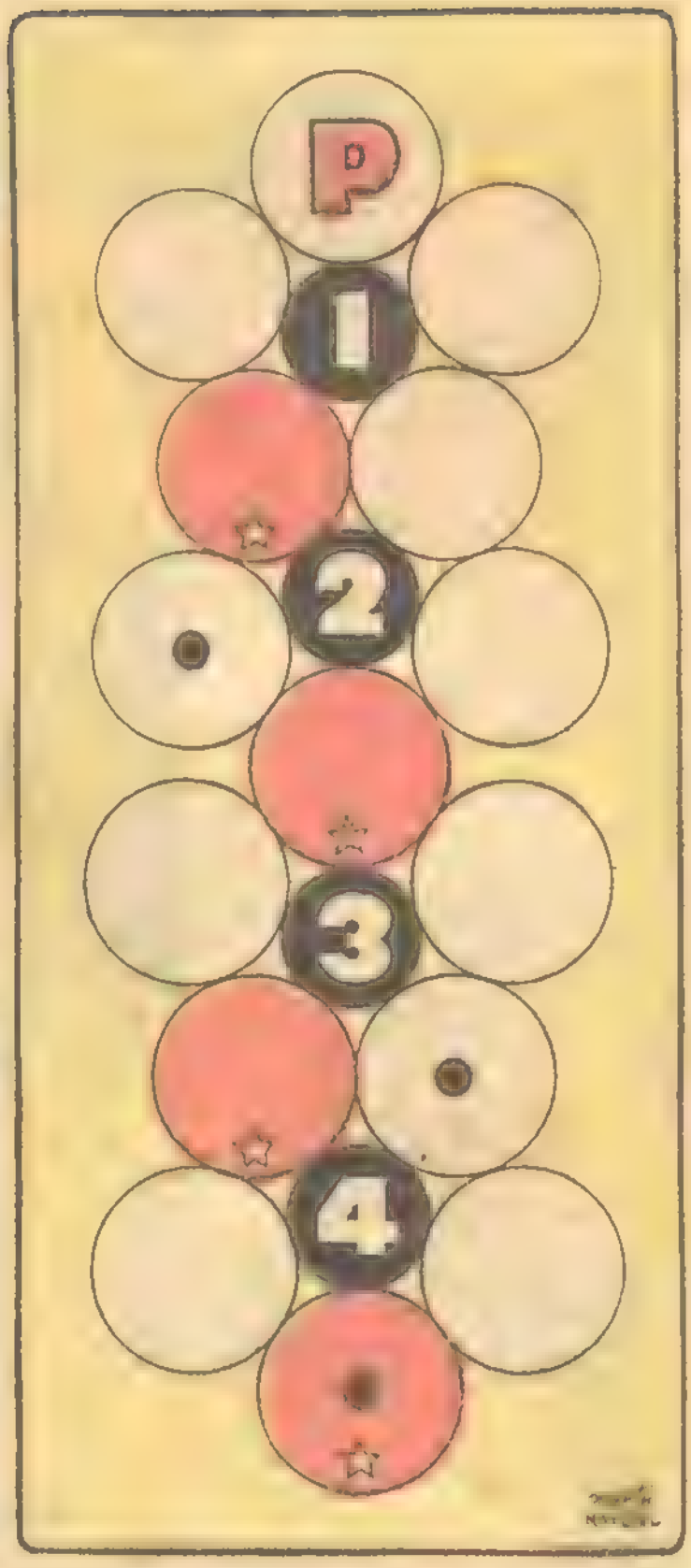

Scrambled Words

WORD 1. ROPEW	WORD 2. LEJWE
WORD 3. LUB'D	WORD 4. BTDOU

Final Goal

. . . .

Directions:

FIRST UNSCRAMBLE THE 4 SETS OF SCRAMBLED LETTERS, MAKING A *FIVE-LETTER* WORD OF EACH SCRAMBLE. THEN PRINT EACH WORD, A LETTER IN EACH CIRCLE AROUND EACH OF THE 4 NUMBERS, *CLOCKWISE* ..... THE *INITIAL LETTER* FOR EACH WORD *NUMBER ONE* STARTS YOU OFF. THE *3 DOTS* INDICATE WHERE THE OTHER THREE WORDS BEGIN. *THIS* COMPLETED, YOUR *FINAL GOAL* (USING THE FOUR LETTERS YOU HAVE PRINTED ON THE *4 STARRED CIRCLES*) IS TO SPELL THE FOUR-LETTER WORD SUGGESTED BY THE CARTOON CLUE! CAN YOU DO IT?

The ANSWER: 1-POWER 2-JEWEL 3-BUILD 4-DOUBT Final Goal DUEL

THE JOKER GAVE ME QUITE A PROBLEM TO SOLVE IN THAT NEWEST ADVENTURE! BUT I'VE HAD PLENTY OF OTHER TOUGH ONES...
...LIKE THE CASE OF THE VANISHING JEWEL THIEVES! THE ANSWER WAS IN PLAIN SIGHT... YET IT TOOK SOME TIME TO SPOT IT!
BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
ROBBERY AND VIOLENCE RUN RAMPANT AS A NEW, BAFFLING CRIME WAVE SWEEPS OVER GOTHAM CITY - AN EVIL BREW CONCOCTED IN THE FERTILE BRAIN OF AN INGENIOUS CRIMINAL! UNSUSPECTED, UNKNOWN... HE WALKS AMONG HIS VICTIMS - WHILE HIS HIRELINGS OBEY HIS COMMANDS AND ESCAPE BEFORE THE VERY EYES OF THE PUZZLED POLICE! EVEN THE AGILE WITS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, ARE PUT TO A SEVERE TEST WHEN THEY TRY TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF---
"The GRADE A CRIMES!"
GRADE A
ART BY: DICK SPRANG & JACK BURNLEY
THE DARK HOUR BEFORE DAWN... GOTHAM CITY SLEEPS! ALL BUT THE FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF RICH AND POOR ALIKE..THE MILKMEN!
CLIPPITY CLOP!
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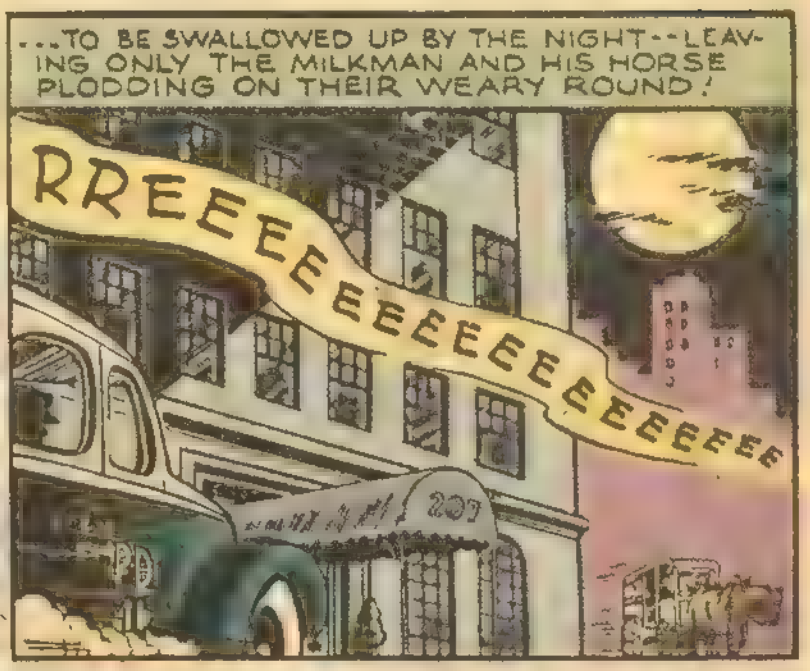
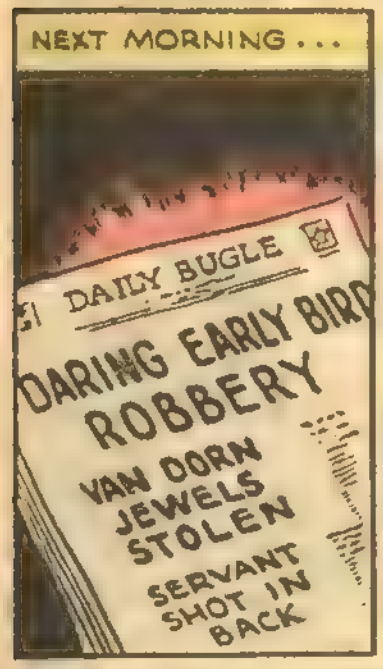
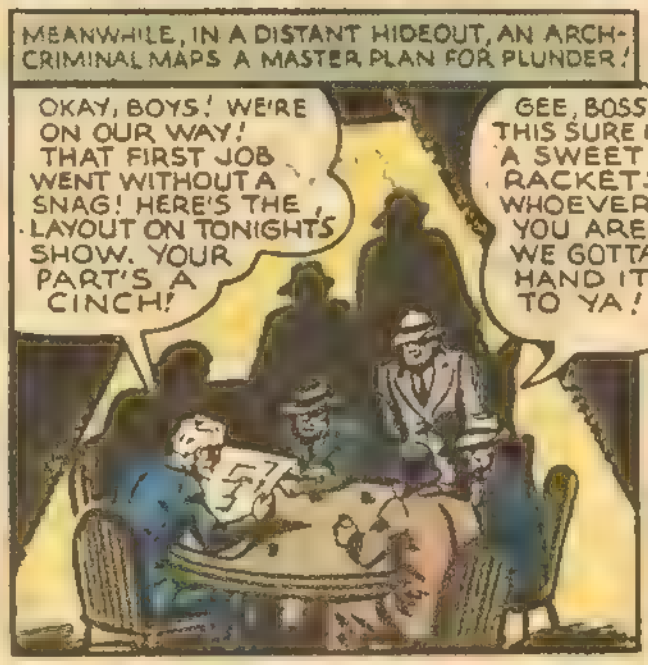
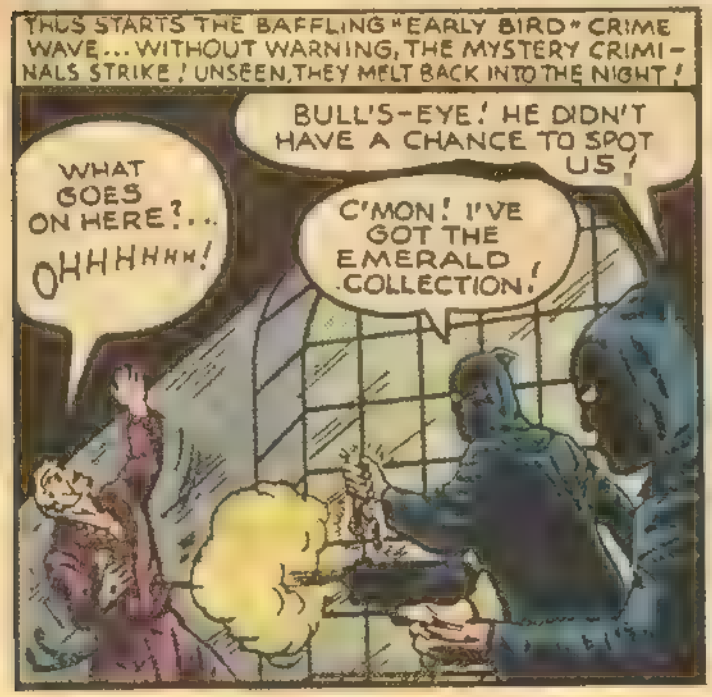
THE GRADE A CRIMES

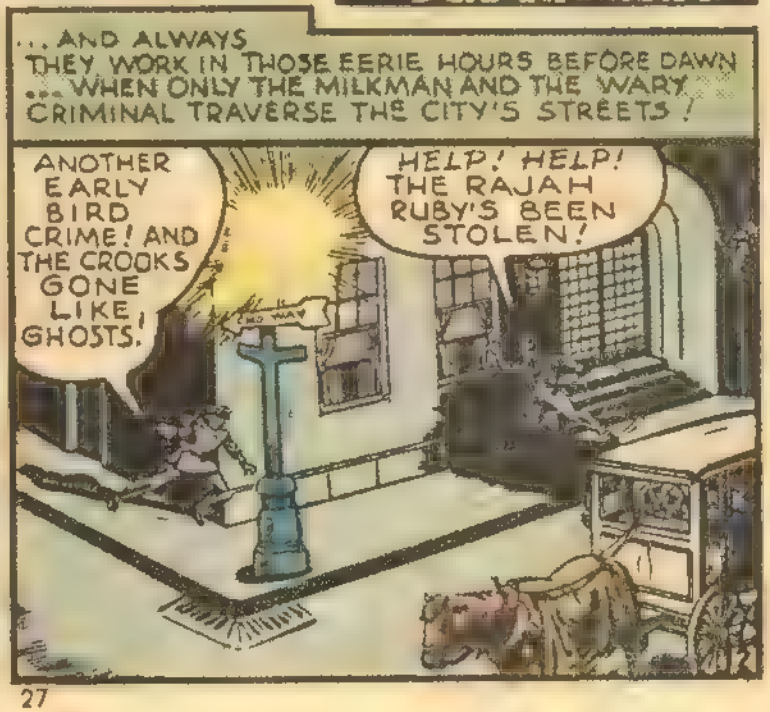

...TO BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE NIGHT--LEAVING ONLY THE MILKMAN AND HIS HORSE PLODDING ON THEIR WEARY ROUND!
RREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
207



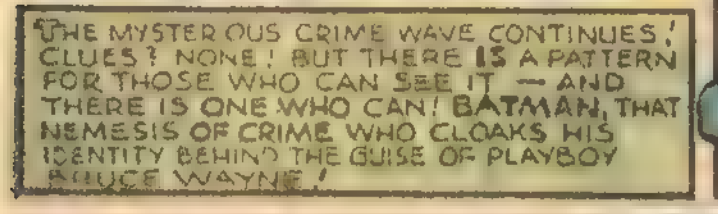

MEANWHILE, IN A DISTANT HIDEOUT, AN ARCH-CRIMINAL MAPS A MASTER PLAN FOR PLUNDER!
OKAY, BOYS! WE'RE ON OUR WAY! THAT FIRST JOB WENT WITHOUT A SNAG! HERE'S THE LAYOUT ON TONIGHTS SHOW. YOUR PART'S A CINCH!
GEE, BOSS, THIS SURE IS A SWEET RACKET! WHOEVER YOU ARE, WE GOTTA HAND IT TO YA!

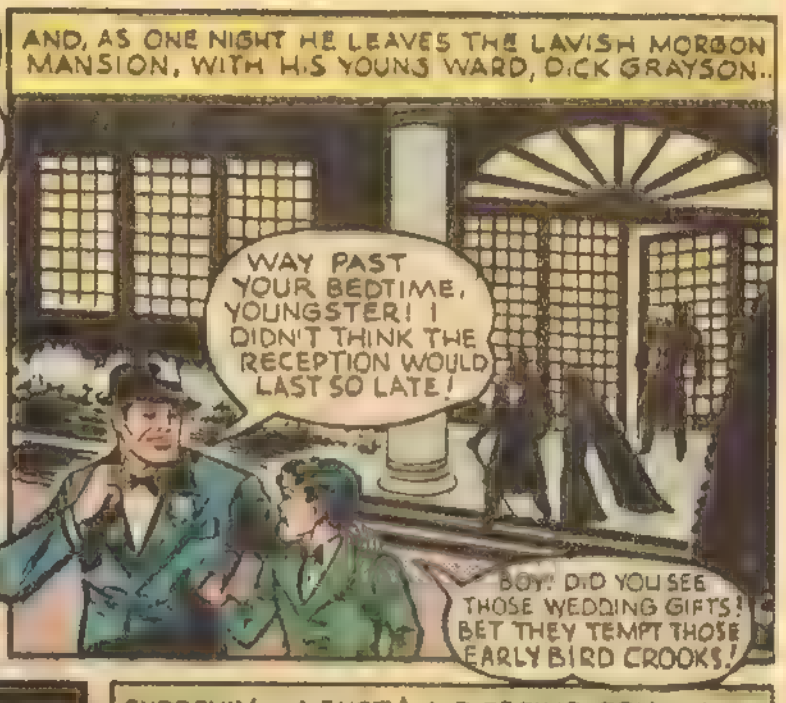
HA! WHAT A SENSATION IF MY IDENTITY WERE KNOWN!... AT LAST I SHALL REAP THE REWARD OF MY CAREFUL PLANS... THE FABULOUS GEMS OF THE AGES WILL BELONG TO ME!

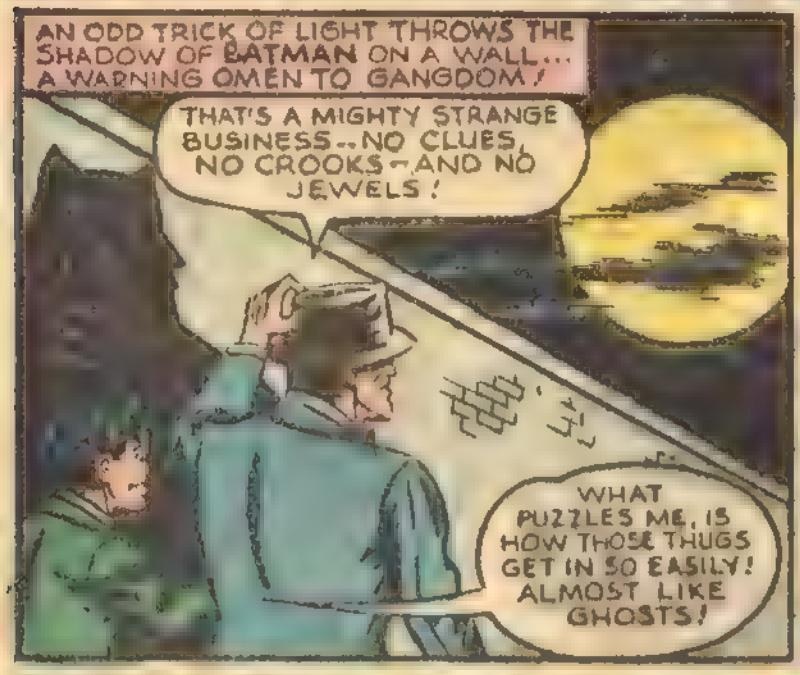

THUS STARTS THE BAFFLING "EARLY BIRD" CRIME WAVE... WITHOUT WARNING, THE MYSTERY CRIMINALS STRIKE! UNSEEN, THEY MELT BACK INTO THE NIGHT!
WHAT GOES ON HERE?... OHHHHHH!
BULL'S-EYE! HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SPOT US!
C'MON! I'VE GOT THE EMERALD COLLECTION!

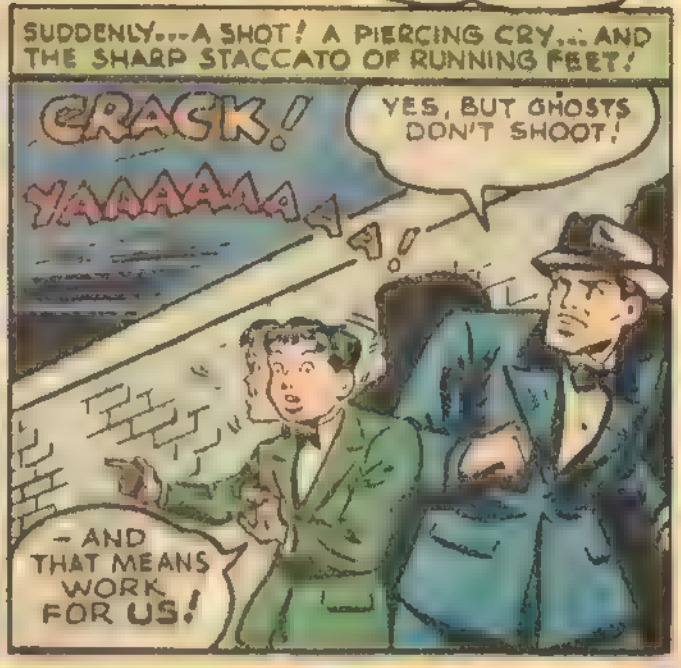

...AND ALWAYS THEY WORK IN THOSE EERIE HOURS BEFORE DAWN ... WHEN ONLY THE MILKMAN AND THE WARY CRIMINAL TRAVERSE THE CITY'S STREETS!
ANOTHER EARLY BIRD CRIME! AND THE CROOKS GONE LIKE GHOSTS!
HELP! HELP! THE RAJAH RUBY'S BEEN STOLEN!

WHILE SOMEWHERE NEAR THE CRIME-SWEPT CITY, THE MASTER CRIMINAL GLOATS!
AH! ANOTHER FLAWLESS BEAUTY! I'LL NEVER SELL THIS ONE!

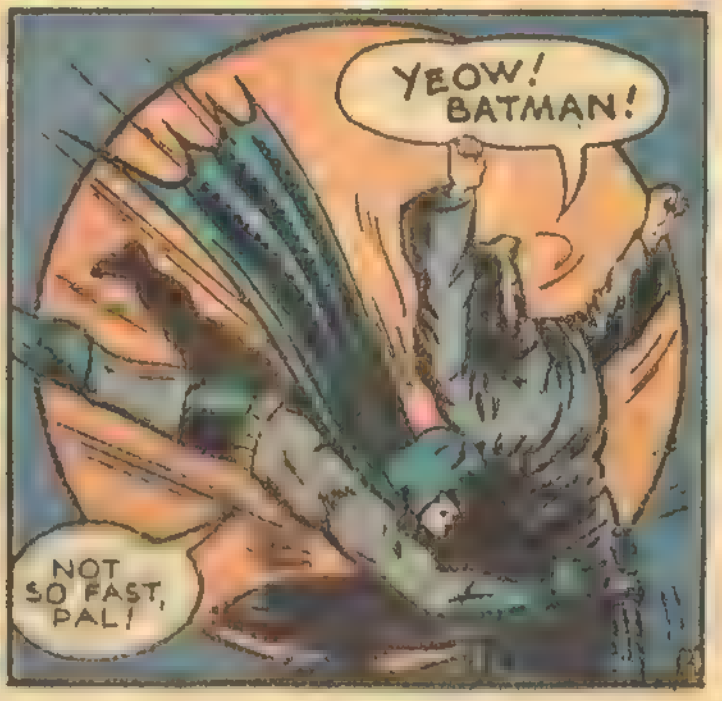

THE MYSTERIOUS CRIME WAVE CONTINUES! CLUES? NONE! BUT THERE IS A PATTERN FOR THOSE WHO CAN SEE IT — AND THERE IS ONE WHO CAN! BATMAN, THAT NEMESIS OF CRIME WHO CLOAKS HIS IDENTITY BEHIND THE GUISE OF PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE!


AND, AS ONE NIGHT HE LEAVES THE LAVISH MORGON MANSION, WITH HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON..
WAY PAST YOUR BEDTIME, YOUNGSTER! I DIDN'T THINK THE RECEPTION WOULD LAST SO LATE!
BOY! DID YOU SEE THOSE WEDDING GIFTS! BET THEY TEMPT THOSE EARLY BIRD CROOKS!


AN ODD TRICK OF LIGHT THROWS THE SHADOW OF BATMAN ON A WALL... A WARNING OMEN TO GANGDOM!
THAT'S A MIGHTY STRANGE BUSINESS..NO CLUES, NO CROOKS—AND NO JEWELS!
WHAT PUZZLES ME, IS HOW THOSE THUGS GET IN SO EASILY! ALMOST LIKE GHOSTS!


SUDDENLY...A SHOT! A PIERCING CRY...AND THE SHARP STACCATO OF RUNNING FEET!
CRACK!
YAAAAAA
YES, BUT GHOSTS DON'T SHOOT!
—AND THAT MEANS WORK FOR US!

INSTANTLY—A STARTLING CHANGE COMES OVER THE PAIR! A FEW QUICK MOVEMENTS, AND THEY RACE DOWN THE STREET AS BATMAN AND ROBIN!
ANOTHER EARLY BIRD CRIME! THAT SHOT CAME FROM THE MORGON MANSION
LOOK! SOMEONE'S GETTING AWAY!


YEOW! BATMAN!
NOT SO FAST, PAL!

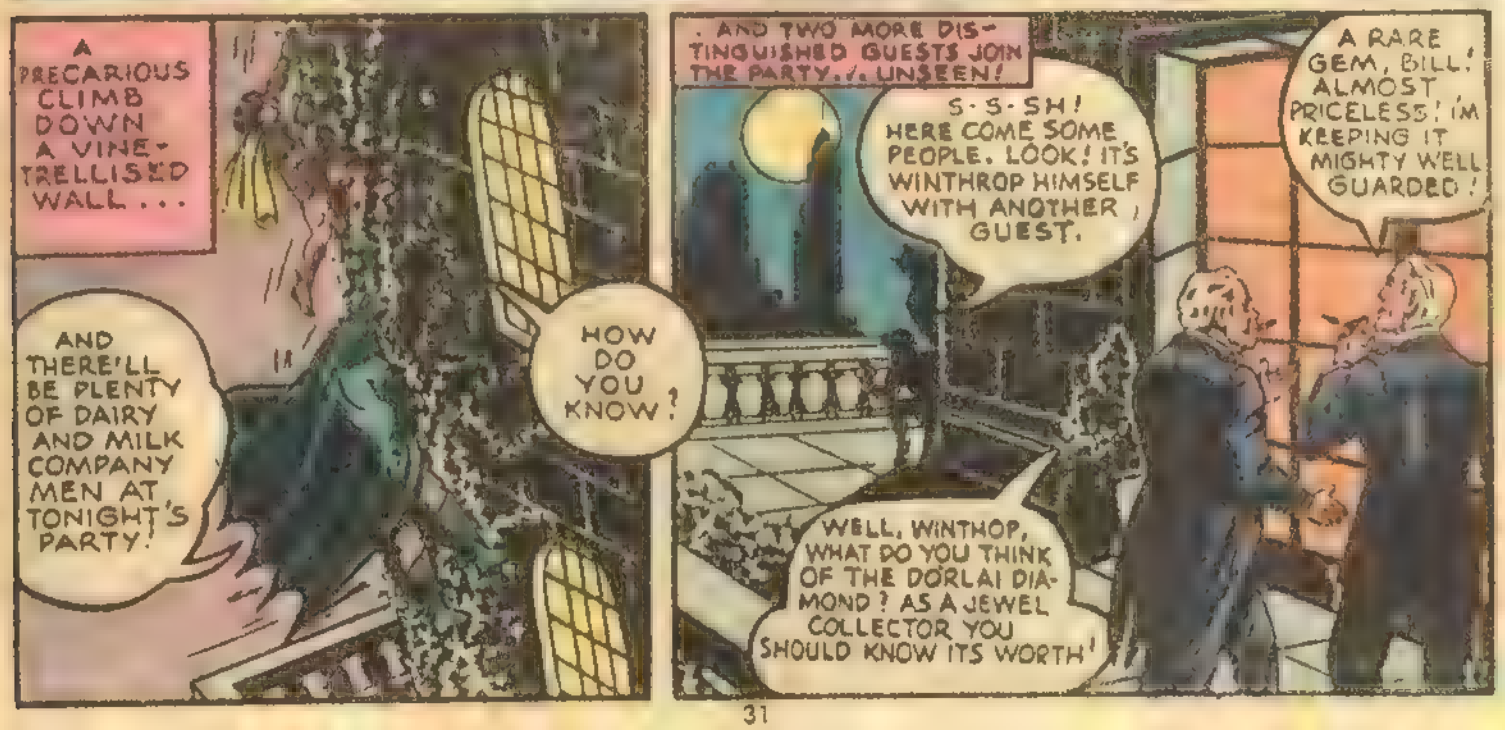
BUT AS BATMAN STRUGGLES WITH THE CLOAKED CRIMINAL, ANOTHER FIGURE LEAPS SUDDENLY FROM THE SHADOWS!
SOCK!
AND THE SCALES ARE TIPPED AGAINST THE GALLANT DUO... WITH YOUNG ROBIN'S LIFE IN THE BALANCE!
STEP BACK, WISE GUY... OR THIS KID'LL LOOK LIKE A WOODPECKER'S MASTERPIECE!
OKAY! YOU WIN! BUT THIS IS ONLY ROUND ONE!
A VICIOUS BLOW CRASHES AGAINST BATMAN'S SKULL!
YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH NOW, BATMAN! LET'S SCRAM, SPARKS!
HERE'S YOUR PRECIOUS BRAT!
BRIEF MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM SNEAK UP ON ME!
WHEW! NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET A SWELLED HEAD! CHIN UP, KID... I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THERE'D BE TWO! LET'S GO AFTER 'EM... THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A HEAD-START!
DOWN THE STREET CLATTERS A MILKWAGON, TOWED BY A WEARY OLD HORSE...
THEY WENT THIS WAY! MAYBE THAT MILKMAN SAW THEM!
CLIPPETY-CLOP
...YES, A ROBBERY AND SHOOTING! YOU'RE CERTAIN YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYONE!
NOPE! NOT EVEN A CAT! ME AND OLD DAISY HERE SURE WOULD HAVE SPOTTED 'EM!
GRADE A MILK
A BEWILDERED DUO TURNS BACK TOWARD THE SILENT MORGON MANSION...
WELL, AT LEAST WE CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THAT SHOT!
THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE HOUSE BUT THE GUARD ... EVERYONE LEFT ON THE MORGON YACHT!

MOVING WARILY THROUGH THE DARK HALLS, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS REACH A HALF-OPENED DOOR—AND FIND...
BATMAN, LOOK! THAT'S THE ROOM WHERE THE GIFTS WERE DISPLAYED!
SOMEONE'S LYING ON THE FLOOR!
IT'S THE GUARD!
POOR CHAP... HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE. SHOT IN THE BACK BY THOSE YELLOW MURDERERS!
HMMM! THEY TOOK ONLY THE JEWELS AGAIN... LEFT ALL THIS VALUABLE SILVER! HEY! WHAT'S THIS?
A WHITE BUTTON! TORN FROM A WHITE COAT... AND THOSE CROOKS WERE WEARING BLACK MANTLES... VERY ODD!
TWO WEARY ADVENTURERS FINALLY REACH HOME... AND BED!
I'VE GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT! ALWAYS THE SAME PATTERN... MYSTERIOUS ENTRY AT 3 OR 4 A.M.,... ONLY VALUABLE GEMS STOLEN... THE GUARD ALWAYS TAKEN BY SURPRISE, AND SHOT IN THE BACK! AND A PARTY ALWAYS PRECEDING THE LOOTING!... WHAT'S IT ALL MEAN?
HO! HUM! DON'T FORGET THAT WHITE BUTTON!
NEXT MORNING... BRUCE AND DICK ARE STILL TRYING TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY...
I KNOW THE ANSWER'S RIGHT HERE! IF I CAN JUST FIT THE PIECES TOGETHER... THIS WHITE BUTTON... THE WHOLE CRIME PATTERN...
MMM! THIS MILK TASTES GOOD!
MILK! THAT'S IT! WOW! WHAT A SET-UP! SO SIMPLE... SO COMPLETELY SAFE! WHAT A FOOL I AM! LET THEM SLIP RIGHT OUT OF MY HANDS!
OOPS! ... LET ME IN ON THIS!
--ALL THIS ADDS UP AT LAST! 4 A.M. IN THE MORNING — A WHITE BUTTON — MYSTERIOUS GETAWAY... THE MILKMAN.
JEEPERS! YOU MEAN THAT MILK DRIVER WAS ONE OF THE CROOKS?

THE GRADE A CRIMES

RIGHT! THE OTHER THUG WAS PROBABLY HIDING IN THE BACK OF THE MILK WAGON! NOW TO FIGURE OUT HOW THEY GOT IN SO EASILY... DICK, WE'RE GOING TO A PARTY TONIGHT!
OKAY - BUT THIS NIGHT LIFE IS WEARING ME DOWN!
DAILY BUGLE
MAROON HOME ROBBED OF WEDDING GIFTS
IN BRUCE WAYNE'S LABORATORY . . . .
IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW! THOSE CRIMES ALWAYS OCCUR AFTER A PARTY! THAT MEANS SOMEONE AT EACH PARTY IS THE INSIDE MAN - GETS THE LAYOUT, MAYBE STEALS THE KEYS...
YOU MEAN THE CROOKS WILL PROBABLY STRIKE AT WINTHROP'S AFTER THE SHINDIG, TONIGHT?
SURE! THE DORLAI DIAMOND'S THE BEST BAIT YET! HERE, ROBIN - PREPARE THIS FORMULA WHILE I DO SOME CHECKING UP ON THOSE OTHER PARTIES!
RIGHT!

AS THE MIDNIGHT HOUR CHIMES, AN AWESOME SHAPE WINGS SILENTLY ACROSS THE SKY... THE BATPLANE!
AND, LIKE A GREAT, SILENT BIRD, IT COMES TO REST ON THE ROOF OF A PALATIAL MANSION!
OUR FISHING SHOULD BE DOUBLY GOOD TONIGHT! WHOEVER'S BEHIND THESE CRIMES MUST BE A BIG SHOT IN THE MILK INDUSTRY - OR THOSE MILKMAN CROOKS COULD NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!


A PRECARIOUS CLIMB DOWN A VINE-TRELLISED WALL...
AND THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF DAIRY AND MILK COMPANY MEN AT TONIGHT'S PARTY!
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
. AND TWO MORE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS JOIN THE PARTY... UNSEEN!
S-S-SH! HERE COME SOME PEOPLE. LOOK! IT'S WINTHROP HIMSELF WITH ANOTHER GUEST.
A RARE GEM, BILL! ALMOST PRICELESS! I'M KEEPING IT MIGHTY WELL GUARDED!
WELL, WINTHOP, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE DORLAI DIAMOND? AS A JEWEL COLLECTOR YOU SHOULD KNOW ITS WORTH!

(BETTER THAN YOU THINK, WINTHROP!) YOU SEE, ROBIN, WINTHROP IS TREASURER OF THE PURITY MILK CO.— BIGGEST IN TOWN!
I GET IT! THAT MEANS PLENTY OF HIS BUSINESS FRIENDS WILL BE HERE — INCLUDING THE "INSIDE MAN" WHO'S THE CHIEF CROOK!
EXACTLY! ONLY TROUBLE IS, WINTHROP AND AT LEAST THREE OTHERS IN THERE WERE PRESENT AT THE OTHER PARTIES... I CHECKED UP THIS AFTERNOON.
GOSH. WE'RE STYMIED THEN!
THEY'RE LEAVING— AND WE'VE FOUND OUT NOTHING!
I'M NOT SO SURE! SOMEONE IS STILL HERE... OFFERING THE GUARDS A NIGHT-CAP!
FINALLY... THE LAST LIGHT GOES OUT, AND A MANTLE OF SILENCE ENVELOPS THE WINTHROP HOME.
IF THE CROOKS STRIKE HERE TONIGHT, THEY'LL FIND UNPLEASANT COMPANY! ROBIN, YOU HAVE THE CHEMICAL— GO DOWN AND WATCH FOR THE MILKMAN!
OKAY! I'LL JUST HANG ON TO THIS CLINGING VINE!
A SHADOW-LIKE FIGURE GLIDES INTO THE GUARDED ROOM... AND FINDS...
A FINE PAIR OF WATCH-DOGS YOU ARE!
HA! I THOUGHT SO... IT WASN'T THE HOUR THAT PUT YOU TO SLEEP! SO YOU GAVE YOURSELF AWAY, MR. CHIEF CROOK! OHO! TIME FOR THE MILKMAN... AND TIME FOR ME TO RETIRE!
CLIPPETY CLOP
SUDDENLY — A STEALTHY FOOTSTEP... A HAND TURNING A DOOR-KNOB...
AND BATMAN WAITS, NERVES TENSED... EYES FOCUSED...
7

LIKE AN EVIL GNOME OF NIGHT, THE CLOAKED MARAUDER STEALS UP ON THE HELPLESS GUARDS!
CAN'T LET THEM SHOOT THE GUARDS! HAVE TO CHANGE MY PLANS SOMEWHAT!
JUST SO'S YOU WON'T LOOK DRUGGED, I'LL PUMP SOME LEAD INTO YA!
AN AGILE, CAT-LIKE LEAP...AND A LEAN FIGURE SPRINGS FROM THE SHADOWS!
I HOPE I'M INTRUDING!
EOW! I'M SEEING THINGS!
YES! YOU'RE SEEING STARS!
WITHOUT WARNING, A GLARING BEAM OF LIGHT STABS OUT FROM NOWHERE... BLINDING BATMAN!
AND YOU'VE SEEN TOO MUCH FOR YOUR OWN HEALTH!
WHAT..!
A BULLET WHINES THROUGH THE AIR...
GOT HIM!
CRACK
...AND A CRUMPLED FIGURE LIES UPON THE FLOOR! CAN IT BE? HAS THE CHAMPION OF JUSTICE FOUGHT HIS LAST BATTLE AGAINST EVIL?
IT'S BATMAN AGAIN! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY THIS TIME!
HE DON'T LOOK LIKE HE'LL EVER GO ANYPLACE AGAIN! BUT WE'LL MAKE SURE!
BUT BATMAN IS VERY MUCH ALIVE!
I'M GOING PLACES RIGHT NOW!
HELP! HE AIN'T DEAD!
8

I'M NO GHOST, BROTHER! JUST AN OLD ARMY TRICK — PRETEND YOU'RE SHOT — THROW ENEMY OFF GUARD!
AND AS THE MIGHTY MAN OF NIGHT FIGHTS THE PLUNDERERS, A STRANGE TABLEAU IS ENACTED OUTSIDE!
WHOA THERE, FELLER! YOU'RE GOING TO HELP US CATCH SOME BAD EGGS!
INSIDE...THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES..
DIDN'T PLAN ON HAVING THIS FIGHT!
I'M..GASP... GASP...CHOKING! U-UNCLE!
SAY UNCLE!
A HAND SNAKES OUT... A FINGER CLOSES, SLOWLY, OVER A GUN TRIGGER!
BOY! I BET YOU'RE BURNED UP!
THIS TIME I WON'T MISS!
A MINIATURE STREAK OF LIGHTNING FLASHES ACROSS THE ROOM!
SNUG AS A THUG IN A RUG!
NICE TIMING, ROBIN!
HEY, BATMAN! YOU GOT THE WRONG GUY!
TAKE IT EASY, ROBIN! YOU FORGET OUR PLAN! HEAD FOR THE BATPLANE!
I'M GETTIN' OUT'A HERE!
GET IT NOW, ROBIN? THEY'LL HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE DAIRY STABLES — AND I'LL WAGER THAT'S THE HIDEOUT WHERE OUR CHIEF PRIZE IS!
SORRY, BATMAN, I LOST MY HEAD!
GIT UP THERE, DAISY!
9

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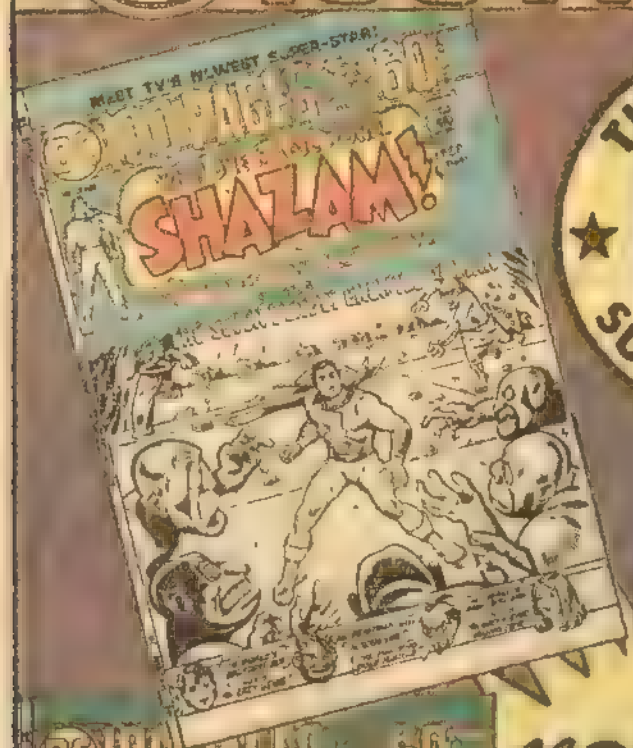

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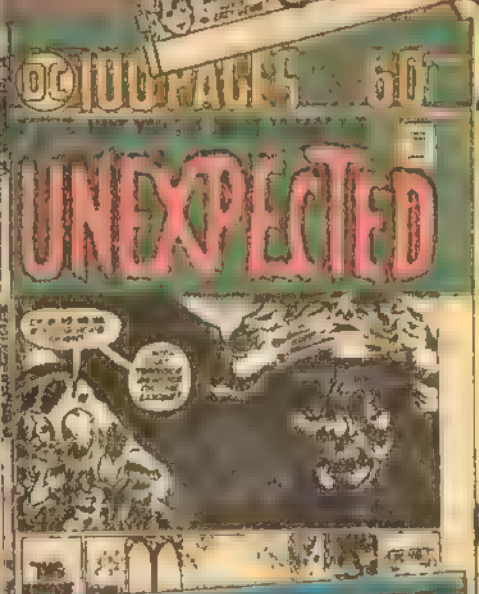
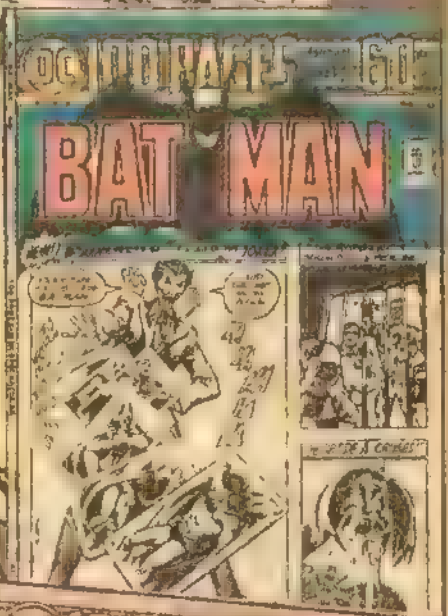
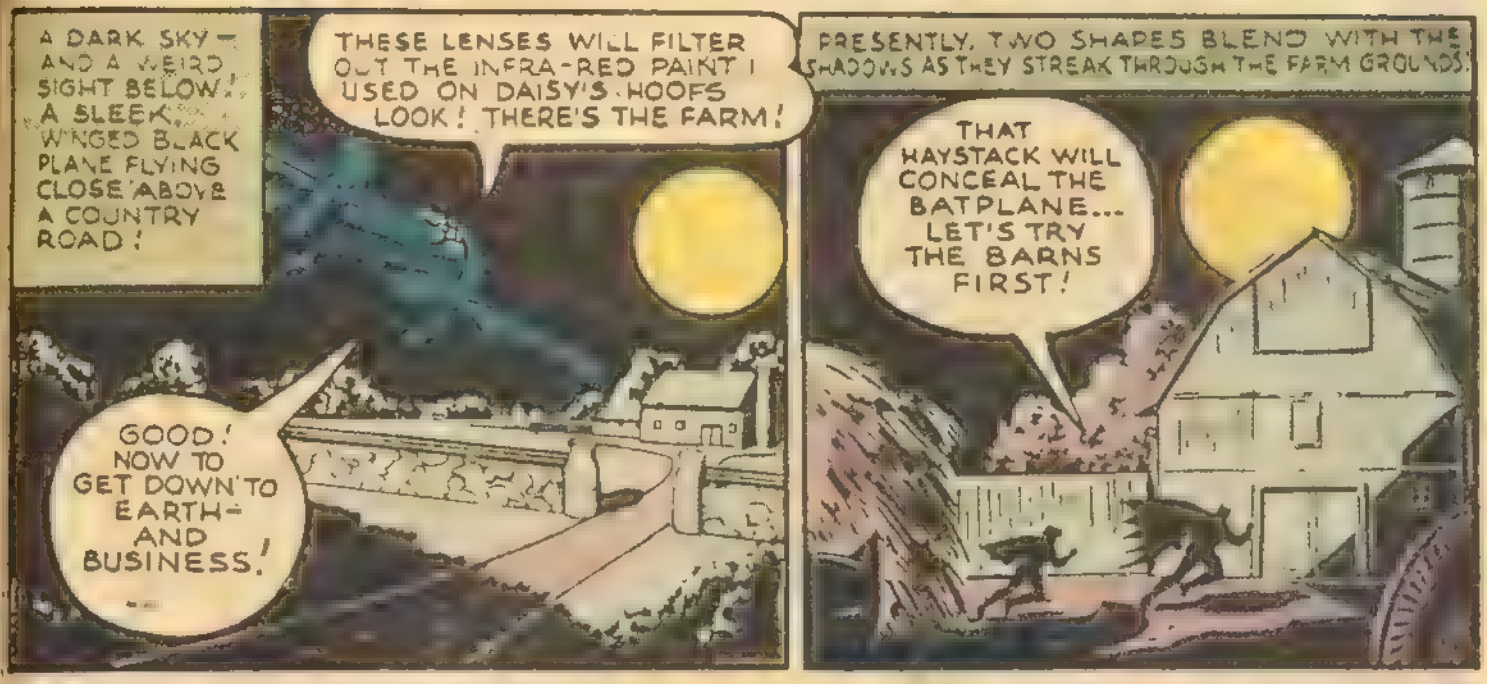
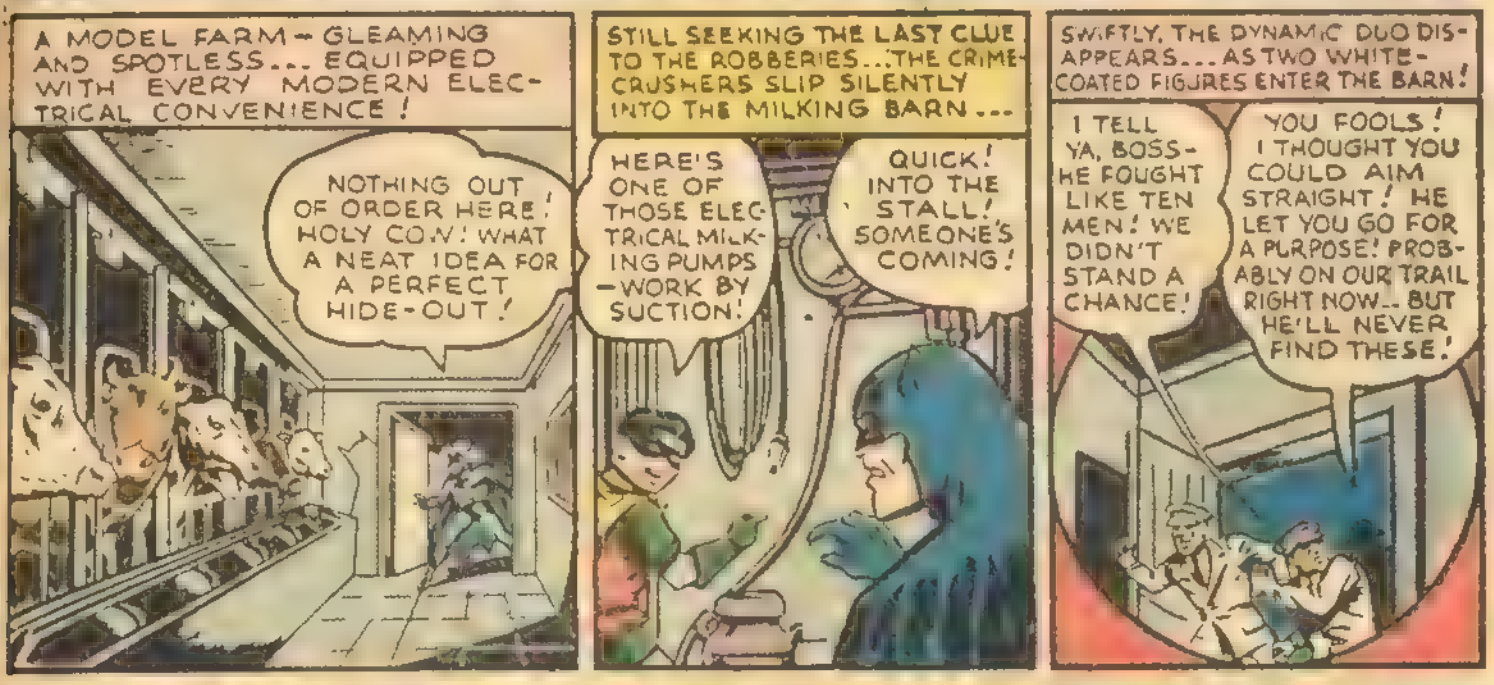
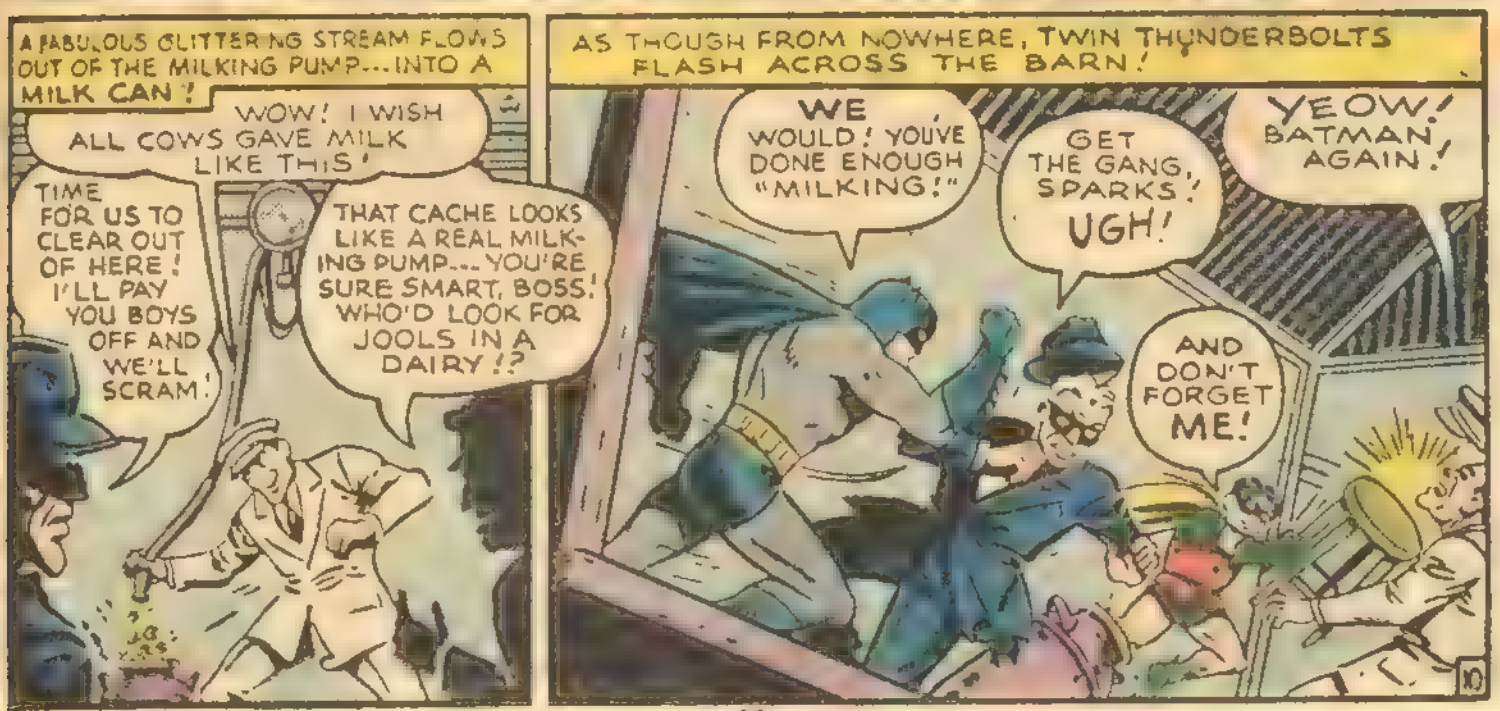


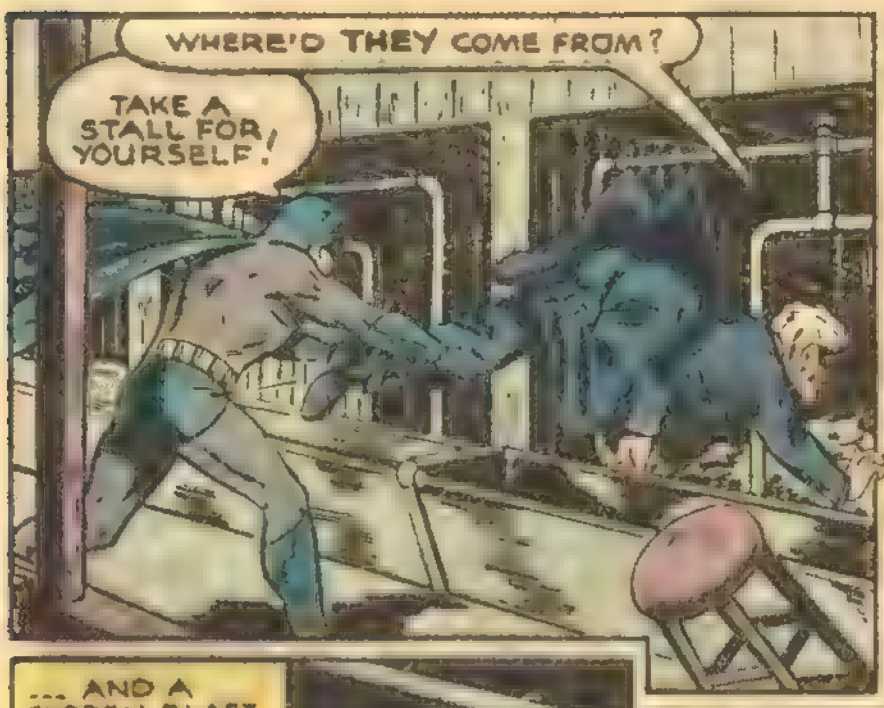


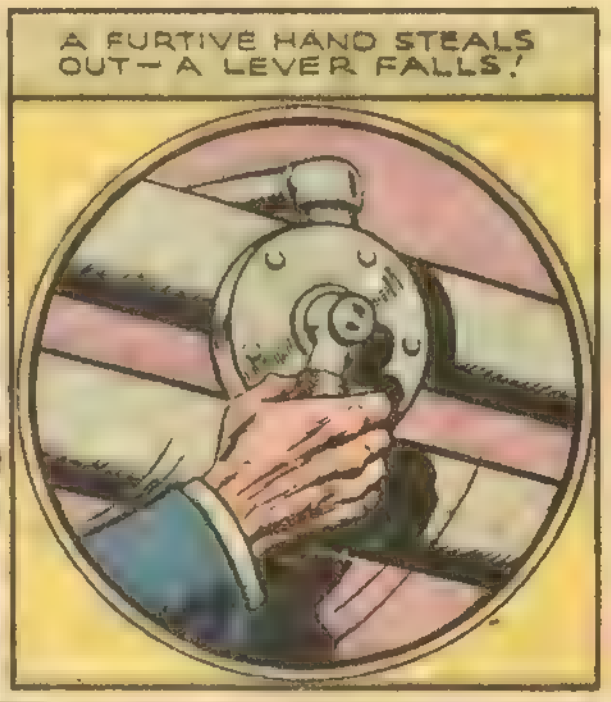
THE GRADE A CRIMES

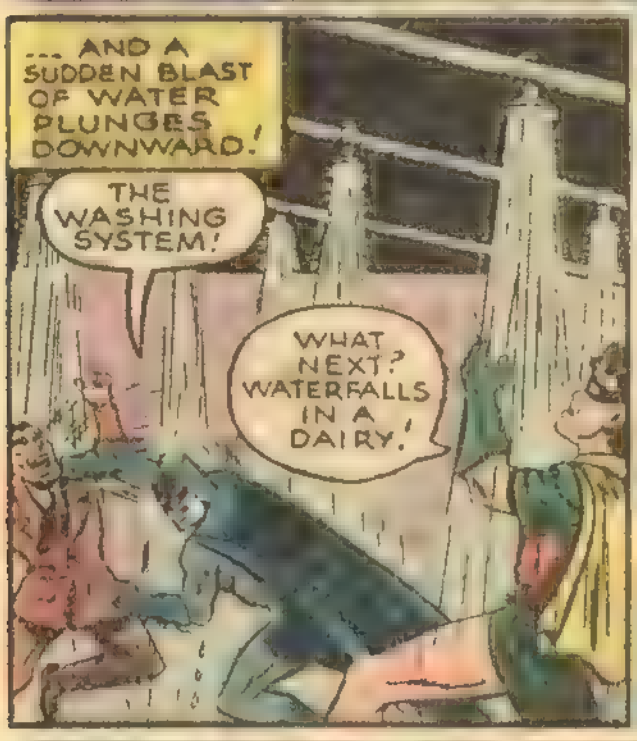

A DARK SKY — AND A WEIRD SIGHT BELOW! A SLEEK WINGED BLACK PLANE FLYING CLOSE ABOVE A COUNTRY ROAD!
THESE LENSES WILL FILTER OUT THE INFRA-RED PAINT I USED ON DAISY'S HOOFS — LOOK! THERE'S THE FARM!
GOOD! NOW TO GET DOWN TO EARTH — AND BUSINESS!
PRESENTLY, TWO SHADES BLEND WITH THE SHADOWS AS THEY STREAK THROUGH THE FARM GROUNDS!
THAT HAYSTACK WILL CONCEAL THE BATPLANE... LET'S TRY THE BARNS FIRST!

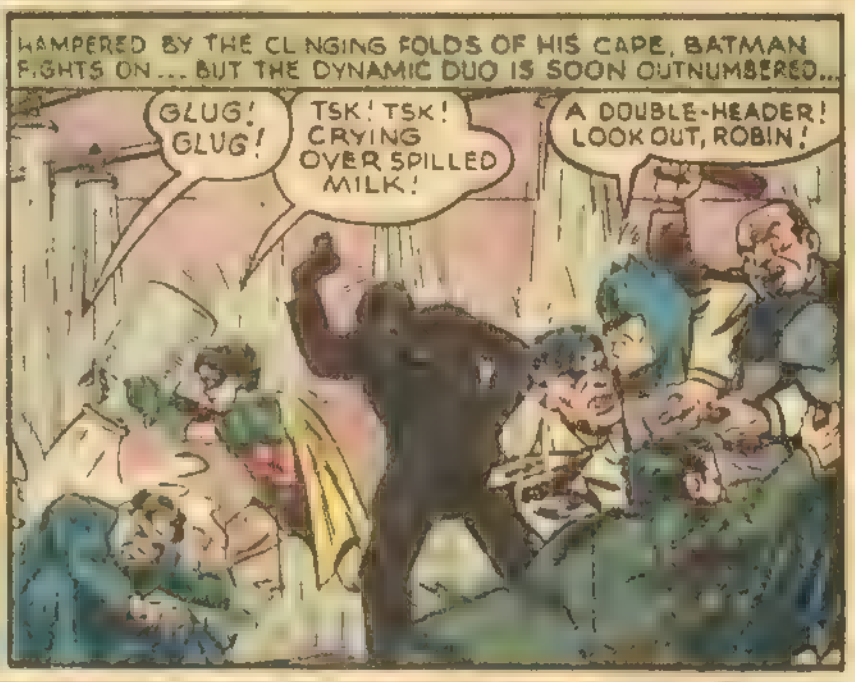

A MODEL FARM — GLEAMING AND SPOTLESS... EQUIPPED WITH EVERY MODERN ELECTRICAL CONVENIENCE!
NOTHING OUT OF ORDER HERE! HOLY COW! WHAT A NEAT IDEA FOR A PERFECT HIDE-OUT!
STILL SEEKING THE LAST CLUE TO THE ROBBERIES...THE CRIME-CRUSHERS SLIP SILENTLY INTO THE MILKING BARN...
HERE'S ONE OF THOSE ELECTRICAL MILKING PUMPS — WORK BY SUCTION!
QUICK! INTO THE STALL! SOMEONE'S COMING!
SWIFTLY, THE DYNAMIC DUO DISAPPEARS... AS TWO WHITE-COATED FIGURES ENTER THE BARN!
I TELL YA, BOSS — HE FOUGHT LIKE TEN MEN! WE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE!
YOU FOOLS! I THOUGHT YOU COULD AIM STRAIGHT! HE LET YOU GO FOR A PURPOSE! PROBABLY ON OUR TRAIL RIGHT NOW... BUT HE'LL NEVER FIND THESE!

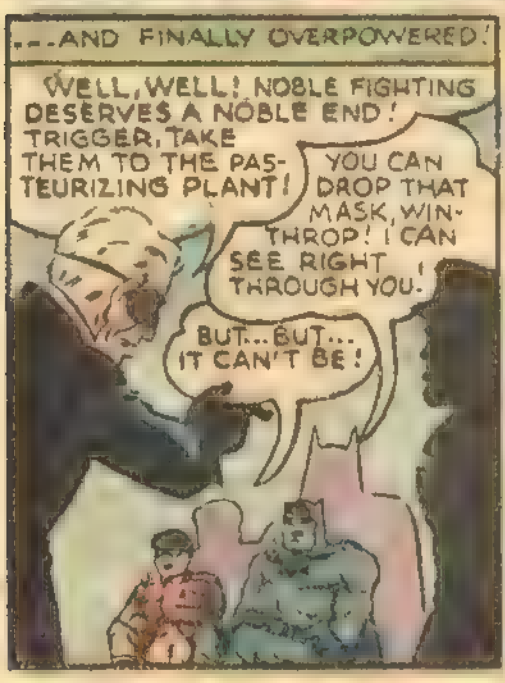

A FABULOUS GLITTERING STREAM FLOWS OUT OF THE MILKING PUMP... INTO A MILK CAN!
WOW! I WISH ALL COWS GAVE MILK LIKE THIS!
TIME FOR US TO CLEAR OUT OF HERE! I'LL PAY YOU BOYS OFF AND WE'LL SCRAM!
THAT CACHE LOOKS LIKE A REAL MILKING PUMP... YOU'RE SURE SMART, BOSS! WHO'D LOOK FOR JOOLS IN A DAIRY!?
AS THOUGH FROM NOWHERE, TWIN THUNDERBOLTS FLASH ACROSS THE BARN!
WE WOULD! YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH "MILKING!"
GET THE GANG, SPARKS! UGH!
YEOW! BATMAN, AGAIN!
AND DON'T FORGET ME!

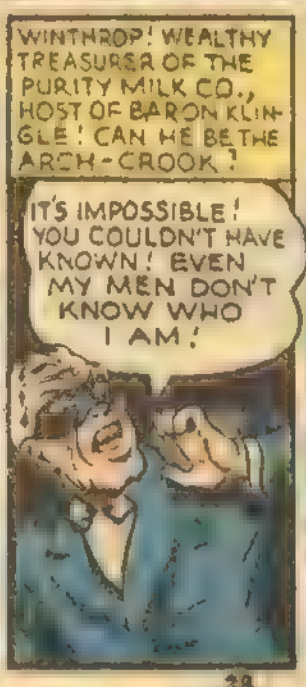

WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?
TAKE A STALL FOR YOURSELF!

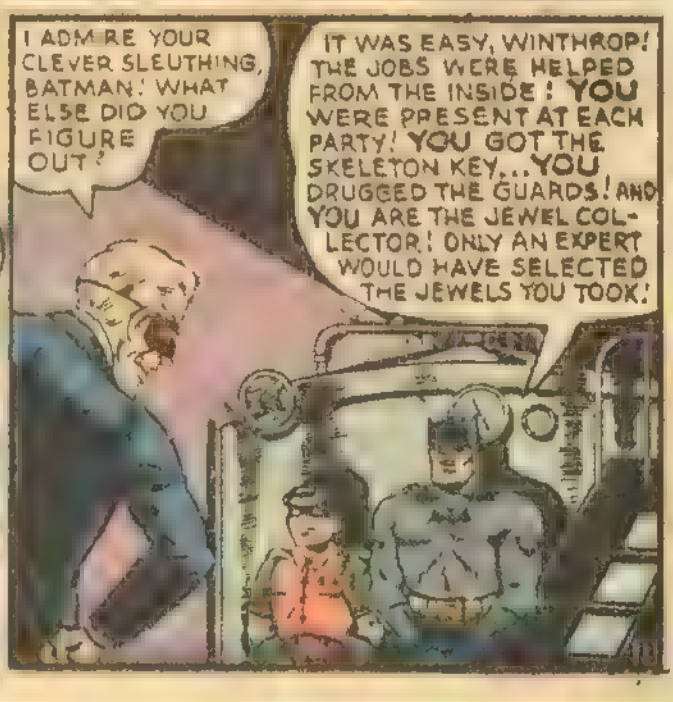

A FURTIVE HAND STEALS OUT—A LEVER FALLS!


... AND A SUDDEN BLAST OF WATER PLUNGES DOWNWARD!
THE WASHING SYSTEM!
WHAT NEXT? WATERFALLS IN A DAIRY!

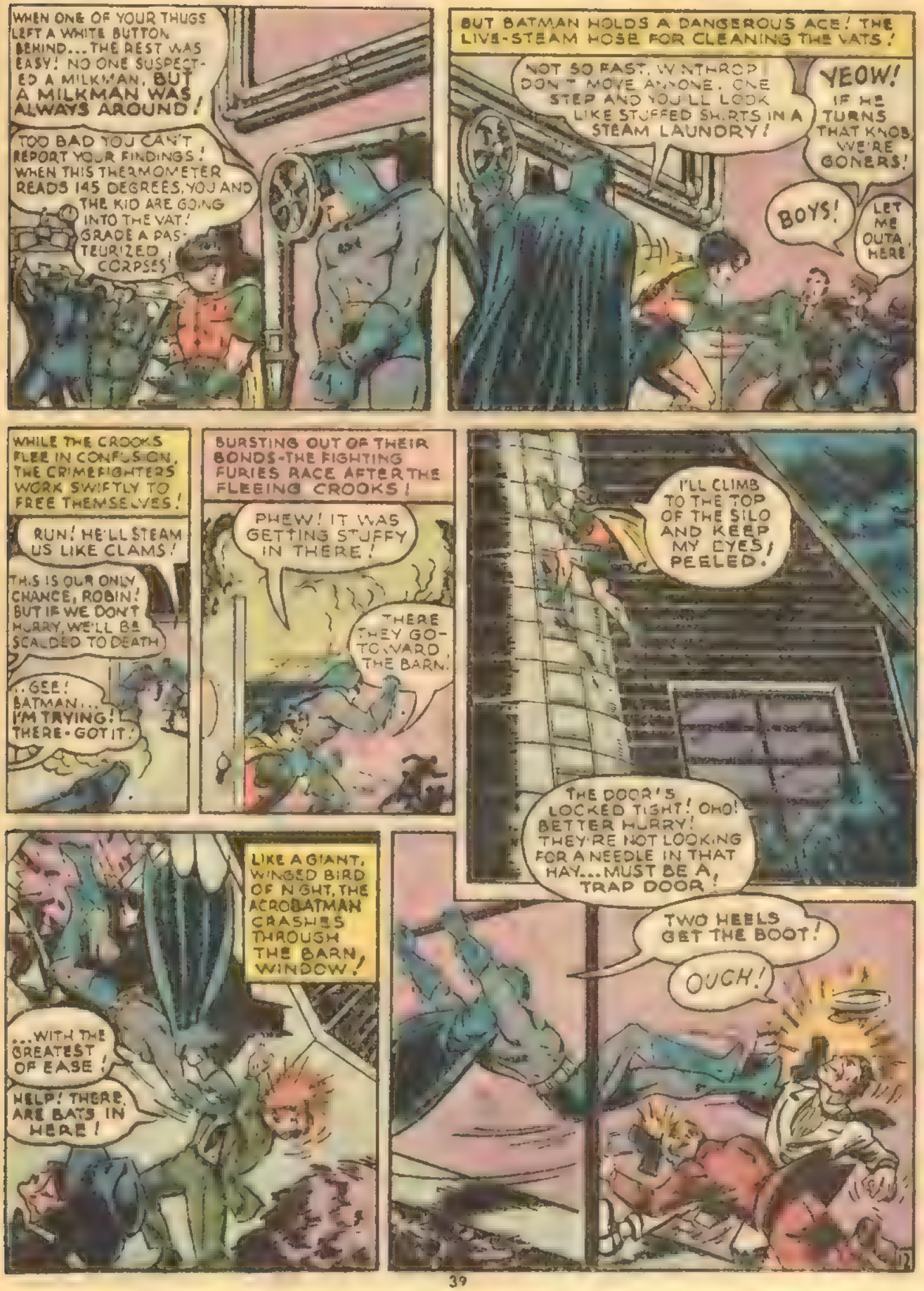

HAMPERED BY THE CLINGING FOLDS OF HIS CAPE, BATMAN FIGHTS ON... BUT THE DYNAMIC DUO IS SOON OUTNUMBERED...
GLUG! GLUG!
TSK! TSK! CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK!
A DOUBLE-HEADER! LOOK OUT, ROBIN!


...AND FINALLY OVERPOWERED!
WELL, WELL! NOBLE FIGHTING DESERVES A NOBLE END! TRIGGER, TAKE THEM TO THE PASTEURIZING PLANT!
YOU CAN DROP THAT MASK, WINTHROP! I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU.
BUT... BUT... IT CAN'T BE!


WINTHROP! WEALTHY TREASURER OF THE PURITY MILK CO., HOST OF BARON KLINGLE! CAN HE BE THE ARCH-CROOK?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN! EVEN MY MEN DON'T KNOW WHO I AM!


I ADMIRE YOUR CLEVER SLEUTHING, BATMAN! WHAT ELSE DID YOU FIGURE OUT?
IT WAS EASY, WINTHROP! THE JOBS WERE HELPED FROM THE INSIDE! YOU WERE PRESENT AT EACH PARTY! YOU GOT THE SKELETON KEY... YOU DRUGGED THE GUARDS! AND YOU ARE THE JEWEL COLLECTOR! ONLY AN EXPERT WOULD HAVE SELECTED THE JEWELS YOU TOOK!

THE GRADE A CRIMES


WHEN ONE OF YOUR THUGS LEFT A WHITE BUTTON BEHIND... THE REST WAS EASY! NO ONE SUSPECTED A MILKMAN. BUT A MILKMAN WAS ALWAYS AROUND!
TOO BAD YOU CAN'T REPORT YOUR FINDINGS! WHEN THIS THERMOMETER READS 145 DEGREES, YOU AND THE KID ARE GOING INTO THE VAT! GRADE A PASTEURIZED CORPSES!
BUT BATMAN HOLDS A DANGEROUS ACE! THE LIVE-STEAM HOSE FOR CLEANING THE VATS!
NOT SO FAST, WINTHROP! DON'T MOVE ANYONE. ONE STEP AND YOU'LL LOOK LIKE STUFFED SHIRTS IN A STEAM LAUNDRY!
YEOW! IF HE TURNS THAT KNOB WE'RE GONERS!
BOYS!
LET ME OUTA HERE!
WHILE THE CROOKS FLEE IN CONFUSION, THE CRIMEFIGHTERS WORK SWIFTLY TO FREE THEMSELVES!
RUN! HE'LL STEAM US LIKE CLAMS!
THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE, ROBIN! BUT IF WE DON'T HURRY, WE'LL BE SCALDED TO DEATH!
..GEE! BATMAN... I'M TRYING! THERE - GOT IT!
BURSTING OUT OF THEIR BONDS - THE FIGHTING FURIES RACE AFTER THE FLEEING CROOKS!
PHEW! IT WAS GETTING STUFFY IN THERE!
THERE THEY GO - TOWARD THE BARN!
I'LL CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE SILO AND KEEP MY EYES PEELED!
THE DOOR'S LOCKED TIGHT! OHO! BETTER HURRY! THEY'RE NOT LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN THAT HAY... MUST BE A TRAP DOOR!
LIKE A GIANT, WINGED BIRD OF NIGHT, THE ACRO-BATMAN CRASHES THROUGH THE BARN WINDOW!
...WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE!
HELP! THERE ARE BATS IN HERE!
TWO HEELS GET THE BOOT!
OUCH!

AS THE MIGHTY BATMAN FIGHTS WITH THE STRENGTH OF MANY...
HEAVE HO! AWAY WE GO!
UGH! GLUG!
A YOUNG DYNAMO MAKES A SURPRISE ENTRANCE!
WHEE! THIS IS BETTER THAN THE CHUTE-THE-CHUTE!
AS DAYLIGHT GROWS STRONGER, THE UNEVEN FIGHT IS FINISHED!
LEAVE THOSE CHAPS ON ICE TILL THE POLICE GET HERE! WINTHROP AND THE GEMS COME ALONG WITH US AS A PRESENT FOR THE COMMISSIONER!
(PUFF) (PUFF) THESE CROOKS MUST CARRY LEAD WEIGHTS ON 'EM!
A GLORIOUS SUNRISE FILLS THE SKY— AS THE VALIANT VICTORS WING HOMEWARD!
LATER--- IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...
IMAGINE A MAN LIKE WINTHROP IN A CRIME RACKET! WHO'D SUSPECT HIM— OR THE MILKMEN!
THAT'S WHY IT WAS SUCH A NEAT SET-UP! WINTHROP PROBABLY BOUGHT THE SMALL DAIRY UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME, AND IF ANYONE FOUND OUT IT WAS HIS—WHY, HE COULD SAY IT WAS A HOBBY!
I JUST CHECKED OVER WINTHROP'S BOOKS FOR THE MILK COMPANY. THERE'S A LARGE FUND SHORTAGE HERE!
THAT EXPLAINS A LOT! HE MUST HAVE GAMBLED WITH THE COMPANY'S MONEY—AND HAD TO MAKE GOOD! HE SPENT EVERY CENT HE HAD ON COLLECTING JEWELS!
BACK IN THE WAYNE MANSION...
I SEE BY THE PAPERS THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN CAUGHT THOSE "EARLY BIRD" CROOKS!
IT'S SORT OF IRONICAL, BRUCE! I BET DRINKING THIS STUFF IS WHAT MADE BATMAN AND ROBIN STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT THOSE MILKMEN ROBBERS! MMM.. SURE IS GOOD!
THE END

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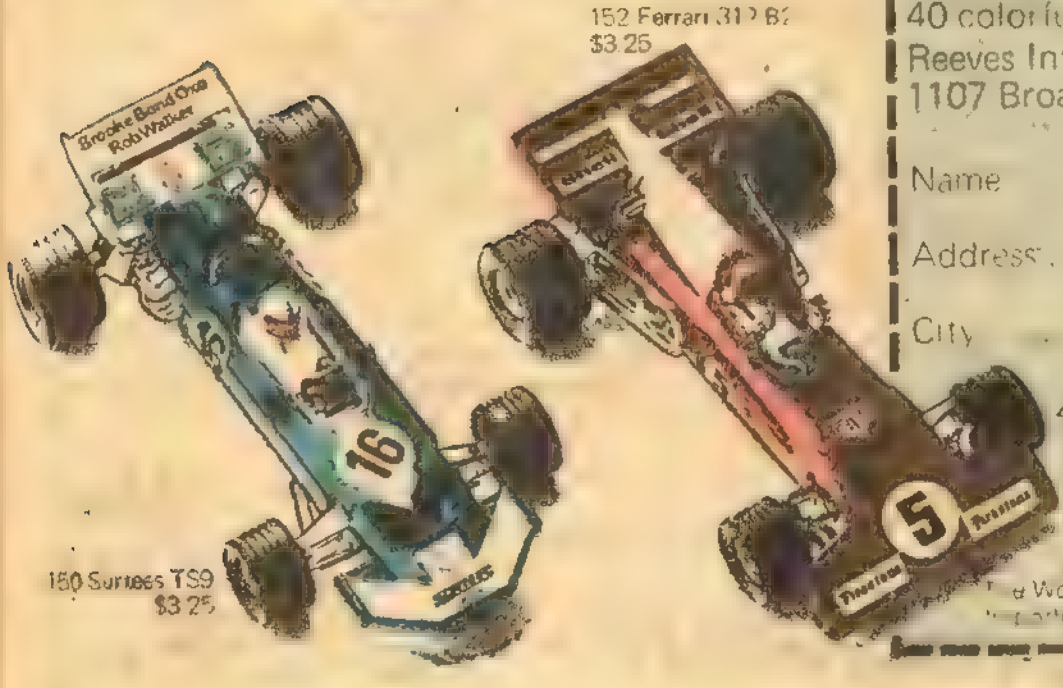

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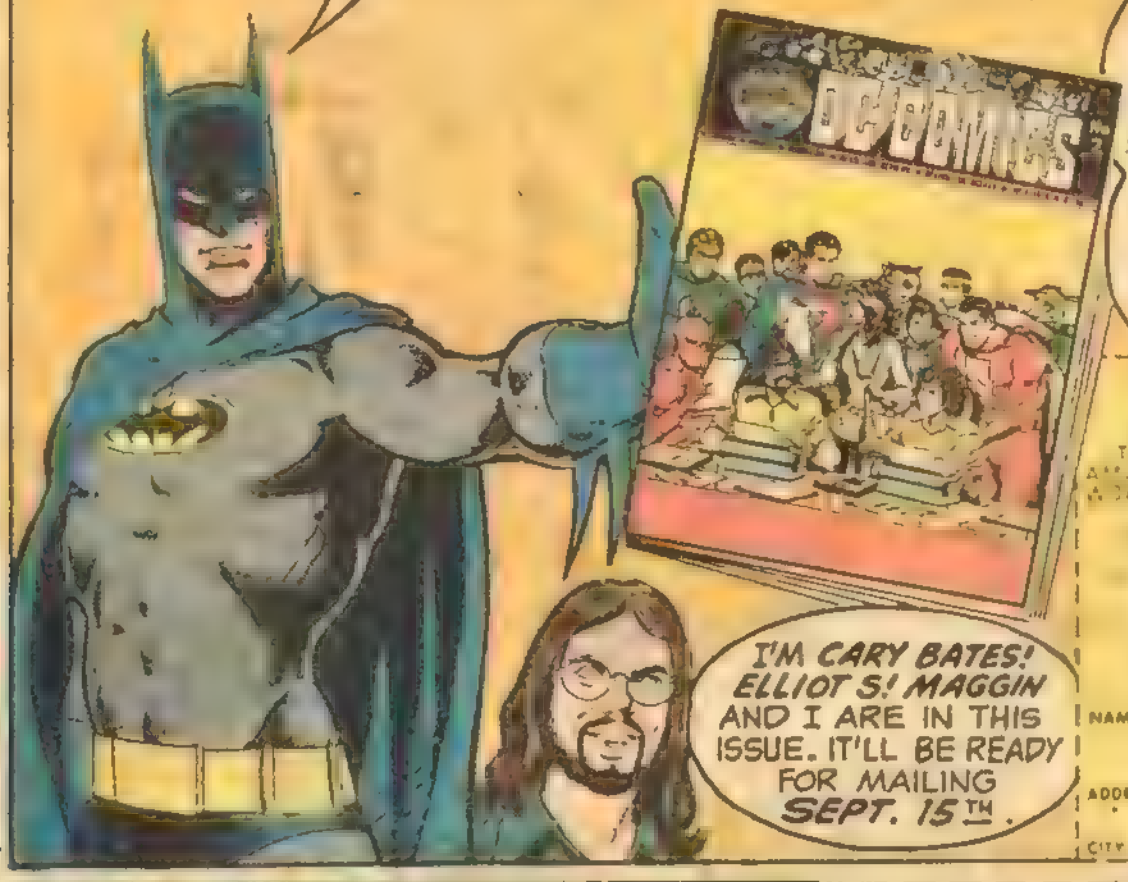

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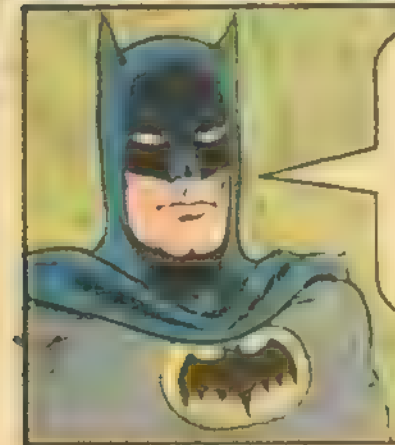

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ALLOW 10 WEEKS FOR FIRST DELIVERY!

THIS IS KAYE DAYE, DETECTIVE NOVELIST AND A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY! TAKE IT, KAYE!

THANKS, BATMAN! THIS CASE IN-VOLVED AN ATTEMPT ON MY LIFE! BUT YOU DID A FINE JOB OF POSTPONING MY FUNERAL!

ANOTHER "MYSTERY ANALYSTS of GOTHAM CITY" THRILLER!

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

THE FINEST DETECTIVE BRAINS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY BELONG TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY! YET EVEN THE MINDS OF THESE MYSTERY-SOLUTION MARVELS ARE STUMPED WHEN THE STRANGE EVENTS OF A REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING BEGIN TO UNFOLD! FOR THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN MARKED AS DUPES IN THE AMAZING CASE WHICH GOES INTO THEIR RECORDS AS...

WE MISSED BATMAN-- AND HE GOT JOE!

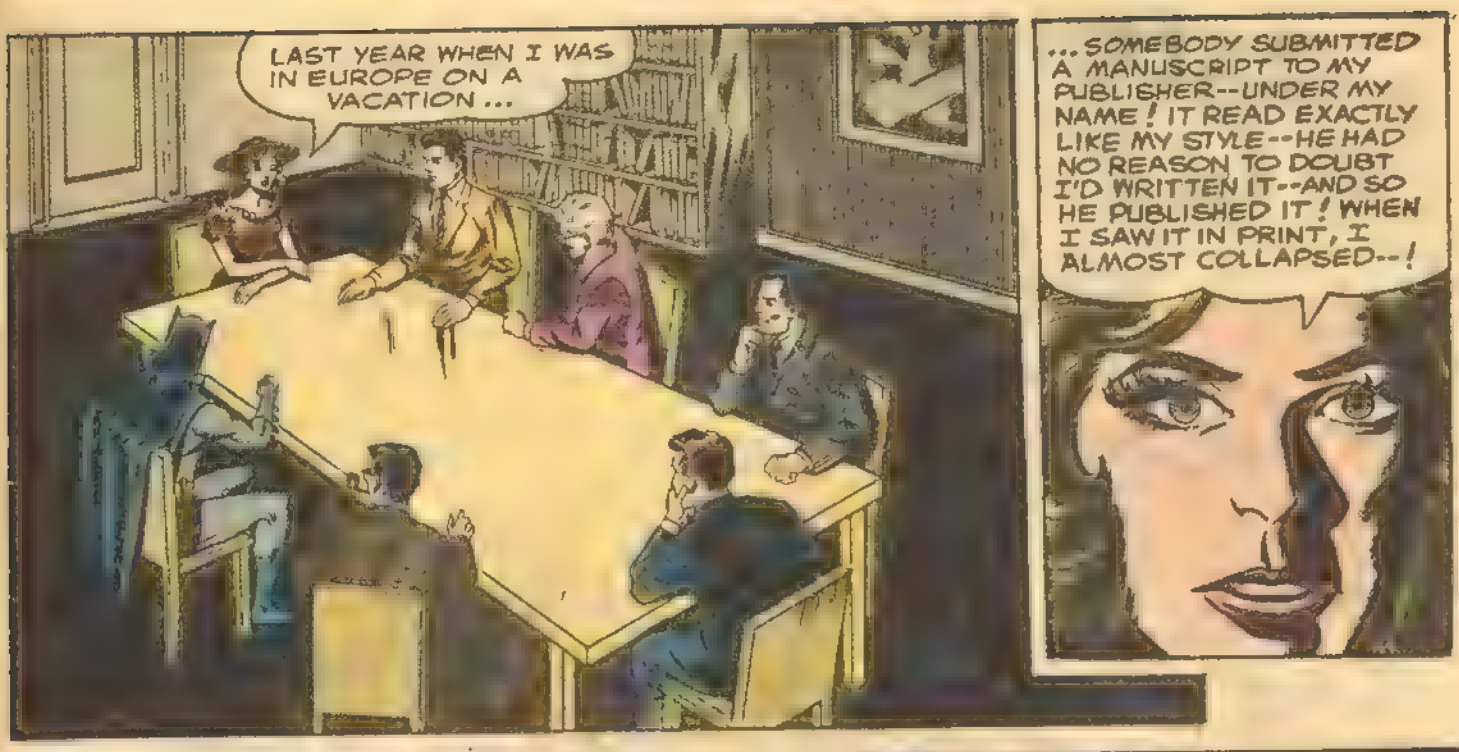
YEAH--BUT WE KNOCKED THOSE DRAPES DOWN AROUND HIM! WE CAN PLUG HIM NOW WITHOUT ANY DANGER!

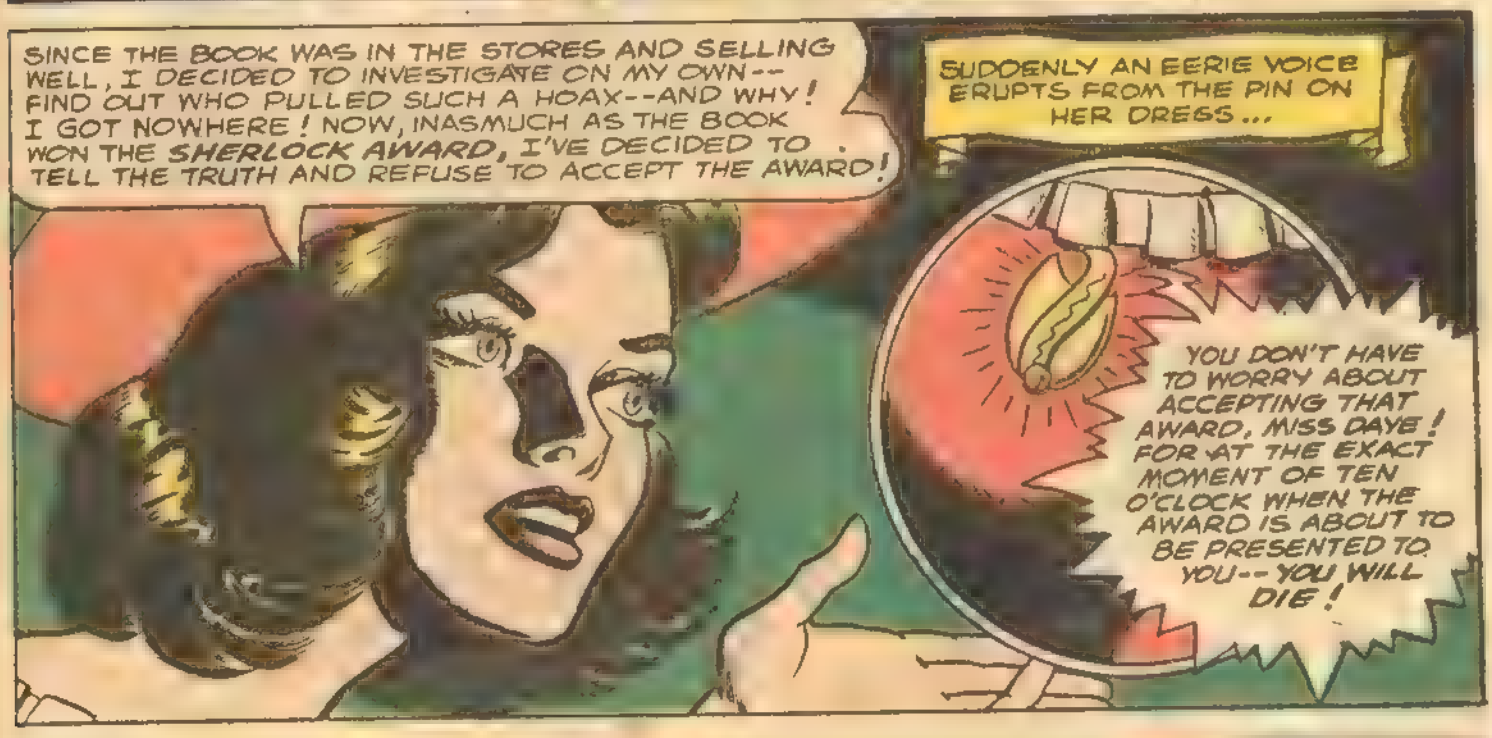
POW!

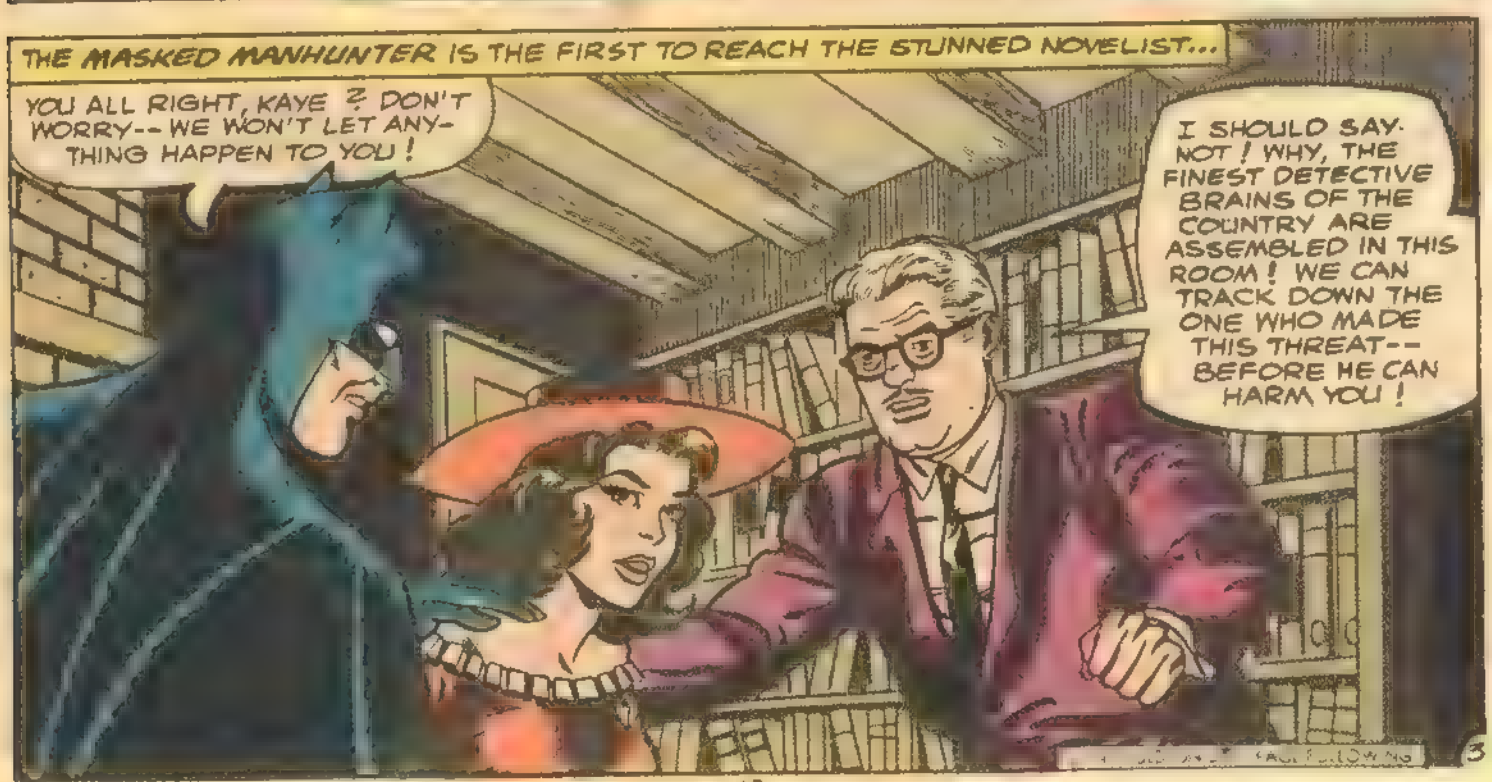
ART: BOB KANE & SID GREENE
STORY: GARDNER FOX

"THE PERFECT CRIME--" SLIGHTLY IMPERFECT!

STARS DO KILL
THIS IS THE MYSTERY NOVEL WHICH HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE BEST MYSTERY-DETECTIVE NOVEL OF THE YEAR, AND SO WON...
...THE COVETED SHERLOCK AWARD GIVEN ANNUALLY TO THE AUTHOR OF THAT BOOK! IN THIS CASE IT IS...
SHERLOCK
--KAYE DAYE--WHO AT THIS MOMENT IS ATTENDING THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY...
FELLOW MEMBERS, BEFORE ADJOURNING TO ATTEND THE SHERLOCK AWARD DINNER, I MUST CONFESS--
I DID NOT WRITE "THE STARS DO KILL"!
WH-WHAT?!
PROTESTING ALONG WITH DISTRICT ATTORNEY DANTON ARE ARM-CHAIR DETECTIVE MARTIN TELLMAN, POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR HUGH RANKIN, NEWSMAN ART SADDONS AND--BATMAN!..
YOU MUST BE JOKING, KAYE!
NO PUBLISHER WOULD DARE BRING OUT A BOOK UNDER YOUR NAME IF YOU HADN'T WRITTEN IT...
LET'S HEAR KAYE OUT...


LAST YEAR WHEN I WAS IN EUROPE ON A VACATION ...
...SOMEBODY SUBMITTED A MANUSCRIPT TO MY PUBLISHER--UNDER MY NAME! IT READ EXACTLY LIKE MY STYLE--HE HAD NO REASON TO DOUBT I'D WRITTEN IT--AND SO HE PUBLISHED IT! WHEN I SAW IT IN PRINT, I ALMOST COLLAPSED--!


SINCE THE BOOK WAS IN THE STORES AND SELLING WELL, I DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE ON MY OWN--FIND OUT WHO PULLED SUCH A HOAX--AND WHY! I GOT NOWHERE! NOW, INASMUCH AS THE BOOK WON THE SHERLOCK AWARD, I'VE DECIDED TO TELL THE TRUTH AND REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD!
SUDDENLY AN EERIE VOICE ERUPTS FROM THE PIN ON HER DRESS...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ACCEPTING THAT AWARD, MISS DAYE! FOR AT THE EXACT MOMENT OF TEN O'CLOCK WHEN THE AWARD IS ABOUT TO BE PRESENTED TO YOU--YOU WILL DIE!


THE MASKED MANHUNTER IS THE FIRST TO REACH THE STUNNED NOVELIST...
YOU ALL RIGHT, KAYE? DON'T WORRY--WE WON'T LET ANY-THING HAPPEN TO YOU!
I SHOULD SAY-NOT! WHY, THE FINEST DETECTIVE BRAINS OF THE COUNTRY ARE ASSEMBLED IN THIS ROOM! WE CAN TRACK DOWN THE ONE WHO MADE THIS THREAT--BEFORE HE CAN HARM YOU!

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FRIENDLY VOICES BRING A SMILE OF RELIEF TO THE TREMBLING WRITER...
THEN YOU WANT ME TO GO TO THE AWARD DINNER -- ACCEPT THE SHERLOCK...
OF COURSE! WE'LL ACT OUT THIS DRAMA TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION!
YOU'LL BE SAFE AND YOUR WOULD-BE KILLER BEHIND BARS!
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME -- LESS THAN TWO HOURS! LET'S GET STARTED!
WHILE YOU OTHERS GUARD KAYE, I'LL GO OUT AND INVESTIGATE THE DEATH THREAT! DON'T LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT -- AND AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE -- ALL OF YOU GO INTO ACTION!
SWIFTLY, FOR HE IS WORKING AGAINST TIME ITSELF, THE COWLED CRUSADER RACES FROM THE CLUBHOUSE AND...
MY INVESTIGATION STARTS WITH THE ODD COINCIDENCE OF KAYE HAPPENING TO WEAR THAT BROOCH TONIGHT! IF SHE HADN'T WORN IT, THAT PREPARED THREAT WOULDN'T HAVE MATERIALIZED...
UNLESS -- KAYE KNEW THAT THREAT WAS TO BE MADE! FOR HOW ELSE WOULD HER WOULD-BE MURDERER KNOW SHE WAS GOING TO WEAR THAT PARTICULAR PIN THAT WAS GIMMICKED UP TO SPEAK?
ALL OF WHICH PUTS A DIFFERENT LIGHT ON THINGS! THE KAYE DAYE AT THE MEETING MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE REAL KAYE DAYE! ASSUMING I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK, I'LL GO TO HER APARTMENT AND SEARCH FOR A CLUE TO WHAT HAPPENED TO HER...
AT THE PENTHOUSE APARTMENT OF THE FAMED MYSTERY STORY WRITER, MINUTES LATER...
THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED! CURIOUS! AND HOW ABOUT THE SET-UP HERE...?

KAYE WAS INTERRUPTED IN THE VERY MIDDLE OF A WORD WHILE SHE WAS TYPING! THE COFFEE IS COLD, ONLY HALF-FINISHED. I'LL TRY AND RECONSTRUCT WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED...

IN HIS MIND'S EYE THE *DEDUCTIVE DETECTIVE* VISUALIZES KAYE DAYE TYPING ON HER NEW BOOK, A CUP OF STEAMING COFFEE AT HER SIDE AS...

"SOMEONE CAME IN THROUGH THE DOOR, TAKING HER BY SURPRISE.. SAY, WITH GUN IN HAND..."

HOLD IT, MISS DAYE! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

"OBVIOUSLY SHE COULD NOT LEAVE A CLUE IN PLAIN SIGHT, RIGHT UNDER THE EYES OF HER VISITOR! BUT, KAYE'S A VERY RESOURCEFUL GIRL. COULD SHE HAVE FOUND A WAY TO LEAVE SUCH A CLUE, UNSEEN?..."

"THE ONLY FACT OF KAYE DAYE THE INTRUDER WOULD NOT SEE WOULD BE HER FLAT AND HIGH-HEELED SHOES!"

SURE ENOUGH! HERE BENEATH HER TYPING DESK ARE MARKS MADE BY KAYE'S HIGH HEEL IN THE HIGHLY WAXED AND POLISHED PARQUET FLOOR! NUMBERS THAT READ-- 117!

117

THERE ARE ONLY TWO PENTHOUSE APARTMENTS HERE-- 116 WHERE KAYE LIVES, AND THE NEXT-DOOR ONE-- 117! SHE RECOGNIZED THE INTRUDER AND GUESSED WHERE HE'D TAKE HER! ORDINARILY I'D INVESTIGATE FURTHER, BUT TIME'S RUNNING SHORT! A HUMAN LIFE'S AT STAKE AND THAT CALLS FOR BOLD MEASURES!

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE ADJOINING PENTHOUSE...
WHO'S THAT? FERN HUNTER WOULDN'T KNOCK--
IT MIGHT BE SUSPICIOUS IF WE DIDN'T ANSWER! GO SEE WHO IT IS!
KNOCK!
KNOCK!
BATMAN! WHA-- WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'M HERE TO GET KAYE DAYE!
THE KEEN AND OBSERVANT EYES OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE OBSERVE THE DAWNING DISMAY-- THE STARTLED SURPRISE-- THE GROWING GUILT-- IN THE FACES OF THE THREE MEN...
HE'S WISE TO US!
YEAH! GUN HIM DOWN!
I FIGURED I WAS RIGHT IN MY READING OF KAYE'S CLUE! THE RESPONSE OF THESE MEN PROVES IT!
BAM!
HE USED JOE-- LIKE A WEAPON! IT'S UP TO YOU, CHUCK!

CHUCK MAKES HIS MOVE-- BUT SO DOES A BATMAN-BOLT OF ANGRY LIGHT-NING...
MISSED!
I'LL GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO "CHAIR" HIM UP!
BLAM!
AS BATMAN HURLS THE CHAIR AT HIS ADVERSARY HE IS KNOCKED OFF BALANCE BY ANOTHER...
BLAM!
WITH RAZOR-SHARP REFLEX ACTION, THE MIGHTY CRIME-FIGHTER BOUNCES BACK SENDING HIS QUARRY FLYING THROUGH SHATTERING FRENCH DOORS--EVEN AS A STRAY BULLET HITS A DRAPE CORD, DROPPING A HEAVY DRAPE OVER HIS BODY!
CRASH!
BATMAN WHIRLS-- AND WITH REFLEXES AS QUICK AND SURE AS ANY TIGER...
WHAT WORKS AGAINST ME-- CAN WORK FOR ME! NOW THOSE TWO GUNSELS CAN'T SEE ME! I'VE TURNED THIS DRAPE INTO A HUGE BULLFIGHTER'S CAPE!
7

BUT I CAN SEE THEM--IN THAT MIRROR!
AIMING BY REFLECTION AND A HIGH DEGREE OF INSTINCT, THE COWLED CRUSADER CATAPULTS FORWARD...
HEY--WHAT--!
ZOCK!
A COLOSSUS OF CRUSHING POWER, HE WHIRLS AND...
SOCK!
HE DOES NOT PAUSE! HIS MIGHTY BODY EXPLODES WITH RAW POWER AS HE PLUNGES RECKLESSLY THROUGH FALLING GLASS AND SPLINTERING WOOD...
HE DOESN'T HOLD STILL LONG ENOUGH TO--G-GET A B-BEAD ON HIM!
POW!
POW!
HE DROPS LIKE A HUNTING FELINE! ONE HAND CHOPS AT A GUN ARM! THE OTHER..
OKAY--NOW TO FIND KAYE--!
THUD!
8

AWARE THAT THEY ARE BATTLING FOR FREEDOM AND AGAINST A LONG JAIL TERM, THE TWO OTHER GANGSTERS BURST TOWARD THE SHATTERED DOORS...
HERE'S WHERE WE TAKE HIM!
HE AIN'T GOT EYES IN THE BACK OF HIS HEAD!
BUT EVEN AS FINGERS TIGHTEN ON TRIGGERS...
THE LIVING ROOM LIGHTS ARE ON--BEHIND THOSE GUYS! THIS IS LIKE HAVING A BOMB-SIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
HIS HEAVILY THEWED LEGS DRIVE UP AND BACKWARD..
THERE'S A BIT OF MISSOURI MULE IN ME, FELLAS! YOU'LL BE ASLEEP FOR AWHILE--TIME ENOUGH TO FIND KAYE DAYE!
SOK!
TIJUD!
SECONDS AFTERWARD, IN A WALK-IN CLOSET...
I WAS COUNTING THE MINUTES TILL MY 10 O'CLOCK DEAD-LINE--BUT SOMEHOW I KNEW YOU'D SAVE ME, BATMAN...
THANKS TO YOUR CLUE, KAYE!
MOMENTS BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK, "KAYE DAYE" RISES AT THE SHERLOCK AWARD DINNER TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE APPLAUSE GIVEN HER AS THE YEAR'S OUTSTANDING MYSTERY NOVELIST...
THE POLICE ARE EVERYWHERE! IF ANYBODY CAN EVADE THEM, HE'LL HAVE TO BE INVISIBLE!
AND ALL THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS ARE SCATTERED ABOUT AT GOOD VANTAGE POINTS!

THE PRESENTATION SPEECH IS MADE! THE SECONDS TICK AWAY. "KAYE DAYE" IS STILL ALIVE...
THIS IS IT!
THAT GAL HAS IRON NERVES!
IT'S PAST TEN! THE DANGER'S OVER!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.. I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE...
AND THEN IN RINGING TONES, A VOICE BOOMS OUT...
HOLD IT! I'LL GIVE OUT WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENTS HERE --
BATMAN! YOU MUST'VE NABBED KAYE'S WOULD-BE KILLER! WHO WAS IT?
THAT WOMAN WHO IS MASQUERADING AS KAYE DAYE! ARREST HER, COMMISSIONER!
TO THE STUNNED AMAZEMENT OF THE ASSEMBLAGE, THE COWLED CRUSADER LEADS FORWARD THE REAL AUTHOR OF "THE STARS DO KILL"...
THEY'RE LOOK-ALIKES!
OUTWARDLY, YES--BUT ONCE THE OTHER'S DISGUISE IS REMOVED, SHE'LL BE SHOWN UP FOR THE PHONY SHE IS!
10

AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, THE IMPERSONATOR IS CONFRONTED BY HER FELLOW CONSPIRATORS...
THEY HAVE ALREADY CONFESSED THAT YOU HIRED THEM TO KILL KAYE DAYE AT TEN O'CLOCK TONIGHT!
THAT'S THEIR STORY! I KNOW FROM NOTHING! ALL YOU HAVE ON ME IS THE CHARGE OF IMPERSONATING SOMEONE ELSE!
BUT NEXT DAY, WHEN BATMAN RETURNS TO SPEAK WITH THE PRISONER...
I'VE BEEN DOING SOME CHECKING UP! I'VE LEARNED YOU'RE AN ACTRESS NAMED FERN HUNTER--KAYE DAYE'S COUSIN-- AND THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER LEFT HIS TWO MILLION DOLLAR ESTATE TO KAYE UPON HIS DEATH! IF SHE DIED BEFORE YOU, YOU WERE TO GET IT!
BUT HOW COULD FERN HUNTER HAVE HOPED TO GET AWAY WITH IT? SURELY SHE MUST HAVE KNOWN WE'D BE SUSPICIOUS OF HER PART IN KAYE'S MURDER, SINCE SHE WOULD INHERIT THE MONEY!
I CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION, GENTLEMEN! FERN HUNTER WOULD HAVE CLAIMED SHE HAD BEEN ON THE STAGE OF THE GOTHAM THEATER LAST NIGHT AT TEN O'CLOCK! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PERFECT ALIBI!
WANTED
MY NAME IS NANCY OWENS! I'M AN ASPIRING ACTRESS FERN HUNTER TOOK UNDER HER WING. SHE COACHED ME, SHE TAUGHT ME, UNTIL I COULD PLAY HER PART ON THE STAGE JUST AS SHE DID! FERN TOLD ME SHE WANTED TO QUIT THE SHOW...
...AND IF I FOOLED EVERYONE PLAYING HER ROLE LAST NIGHT, SHE COULD LEAVE AND I, WOULD TAKE HER PLACE! NO ONE WOULD EVER HAVE KNOWN IT WAS NOT THE REAL FERN HUNTER ON THAT STAGE! WITH A BRUNETTE WIG, I WAS MADE UP TO LOOK LIKE HER!
UNLESS NANCY TALKED! THAT MEANS FERN HUNTER HAD HER MARKED FOR DEATH, ALSO!
SOME EVENINGS LATER, AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS...
WE'VE ALL BEEN DOING SOME INVESTIGATION ON YOUR CASE, KAYE! HUGH, START IT OFF...
I LEARNED THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS PROUD OF YOU AND YOUR FAME AS A MYSTERY WRITER, KAYE--AND DECIDED TO LEAVE HIS MONEY TO YOU! THIS EMBITTERED FERN-- WHO WAS GOING TO "SHOW HIM". HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE --

ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE MARTIN TELLMAN TAKES UP THE TALE...
NOT ONLY WAS FERN GOING TO HAVE YOU KILLED TO INHERIT TWO MILLION DOLLARS, BUT SHE WAS GOING TO DO IT IN A WAY THAT WOULD PROVE SHE COULD "PLAN" A PERFECT CRIME TOO--DRESSED UP WITH MISLEADING CLUES! HERS WOULD BE A REAL-LIFE MURDER, NOT A FICTIONAL ONE!
DISTRICT ATTORNEY DANTON ADDS HIS INFORMATION...
AFTER FERN'S CONFEDERATES KILLED YOU AT TEN, THEY WERE TO RETURN YOUR BODY TO YOUR OWN APARTMENT, WITH PLANTED EVIDENCE PROVING THE TIME OF YOUR DEATH!
CRIME REPORTER ART SADDOWS SMILES GRIMLY...
IF THE FINGER OF SUSPICION POINTED TO FERN HUNTER--SHE'D HAVE A PERFECT ALIBI! IF IT POINTED AT THE PHONY KAYE DAYE--SHE'D HAVE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE! THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS WOULD HAVE BEEN STUCK WITH AN UNSOLVABLE MYSTERY!
BUT THANKS TO BATMAN'S QUICK WORK--I'M ALIVE!
I WONDER IF NANCY OWENS REALIZES SHE ALSO OWES HER LIFE TO YOU, BATMAN?
RIGHT! NANCY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE NEXT VICTIM! AND FERN HUNTER WOULD HAVE PULLED OFF THE PERFECT CRIME!
AS IT IS, IT GOES INTO OUR RECORDS AS ANOTHER IMPERFECT CRIME!
THE END

DOUBLE DANGER!
THE SPECTRE!
AND
AQUAMAN
ON SALE OCT. 31ST
DC
Adventure
COMICS
20¢

BATMAN TRIVIA QUIZ

1) YEARS AGO THE PARENTS OF YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE WERE GUNNED DOWN BY A HOLDUP MAN. WHAT WAS THE KILLER'S NAME?

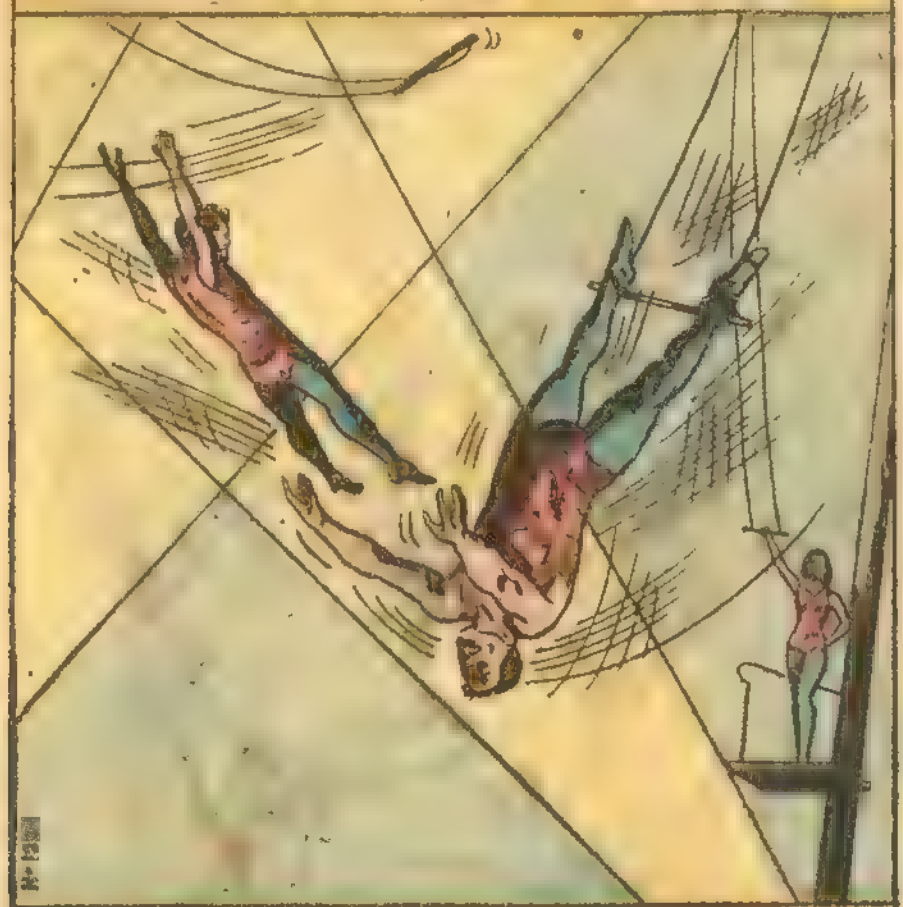
[A] LEX LUTHOR. [B] JOE CHILL [C] TED GRANT

2) WHAT WERE THE WAYNES' FIRST NAMES?

[A] JONATHAN AND MARTHA. [B] THOMAS AND MARTHA [C] GEORGE AND MARTHA

3) DICK GRAYSON PERFORMED WITH HIS PARENTS, WHO WERE TRAPEZE ARTISTS IN A CIRCUS. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THEIR ACT?

[A] THE GREAT GRAYSONS [B] THE FLYING GRAYSONS [C] THE AMAZING GRAYSONS



4) WHAT WERE THE GRAYSONS' FIRST NAMES?

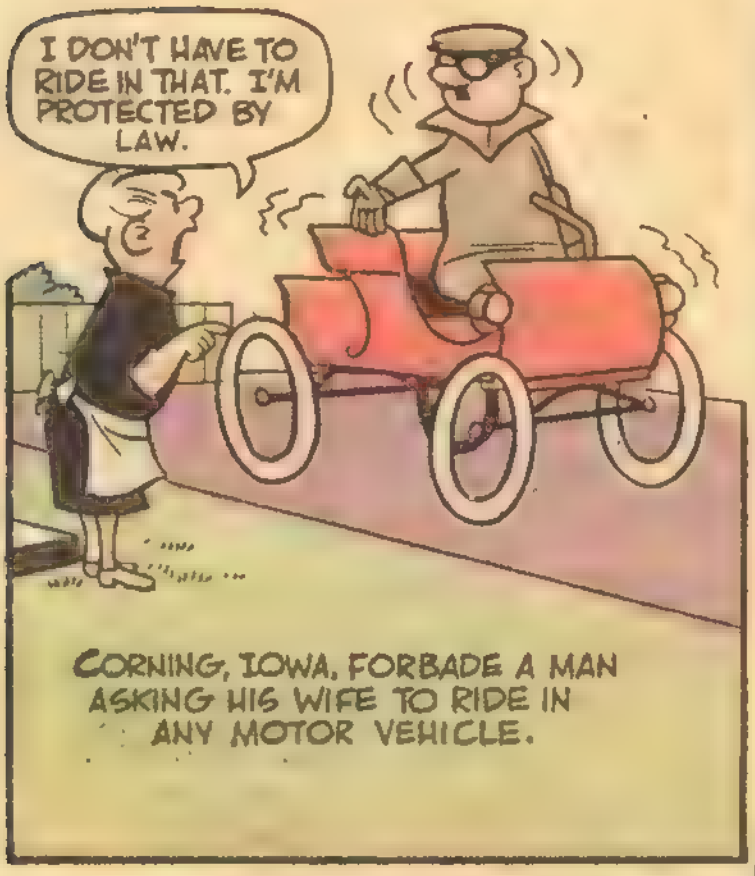
[A] RICHARD AND HARRIET
[B] RICHARD AND MARY
[C] JOHN AND MARY

5) THIS IS THE *RED HOOD*, A FOE OF *BATMAN* WHO LATER TOOK ON A NEW IDENTITY.

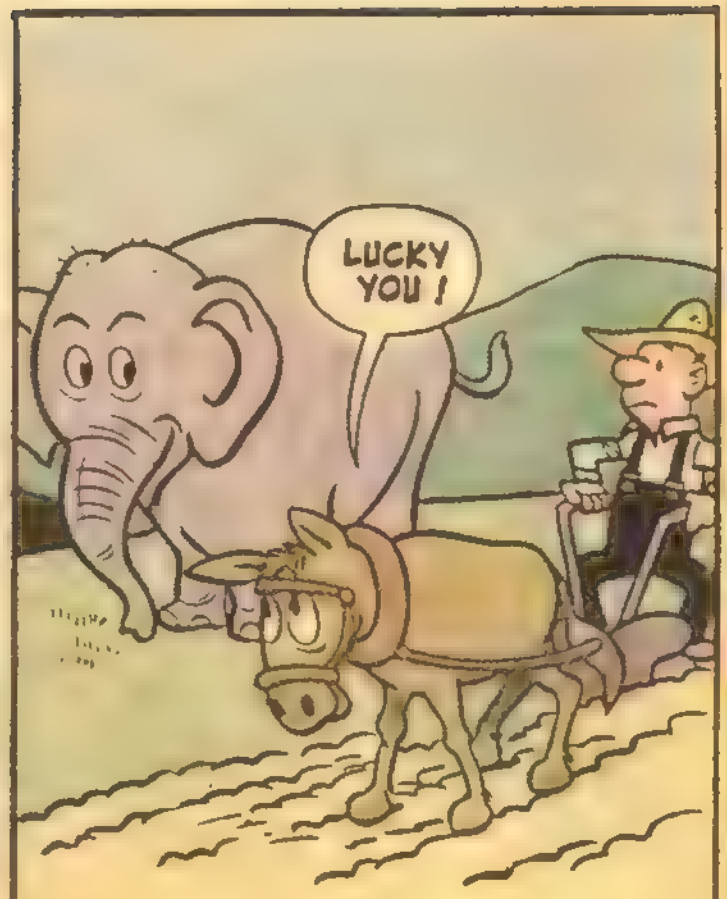
WHICH OF THESE CROOKS WAS ONCE THE *RED HOOD*?

FOR THE ANSWERS, TURN TO PAGE 58

STRANGE OLD LAWS



CORNING, IOWA, FORBADE A MAN ASKING HIS WIFE TO RIDE IN ANY MOTOR VEHICLE.



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HERE'S A MYSTERY THE BATMAN DIDN'T SOLVE! IT INVOLVED STOLEN MONEY THAT WASN'T STOLEN!
SEE IF YOU CAN FIGURE OUT HOW THE CASH DISAPPEARED...AND SOLVE THE PUZZLE THAT STUMPED BATMAN...BUT NOT BRUCE WAYNE!
BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
© 1964 BY DETECTIVE COMICS, INC.
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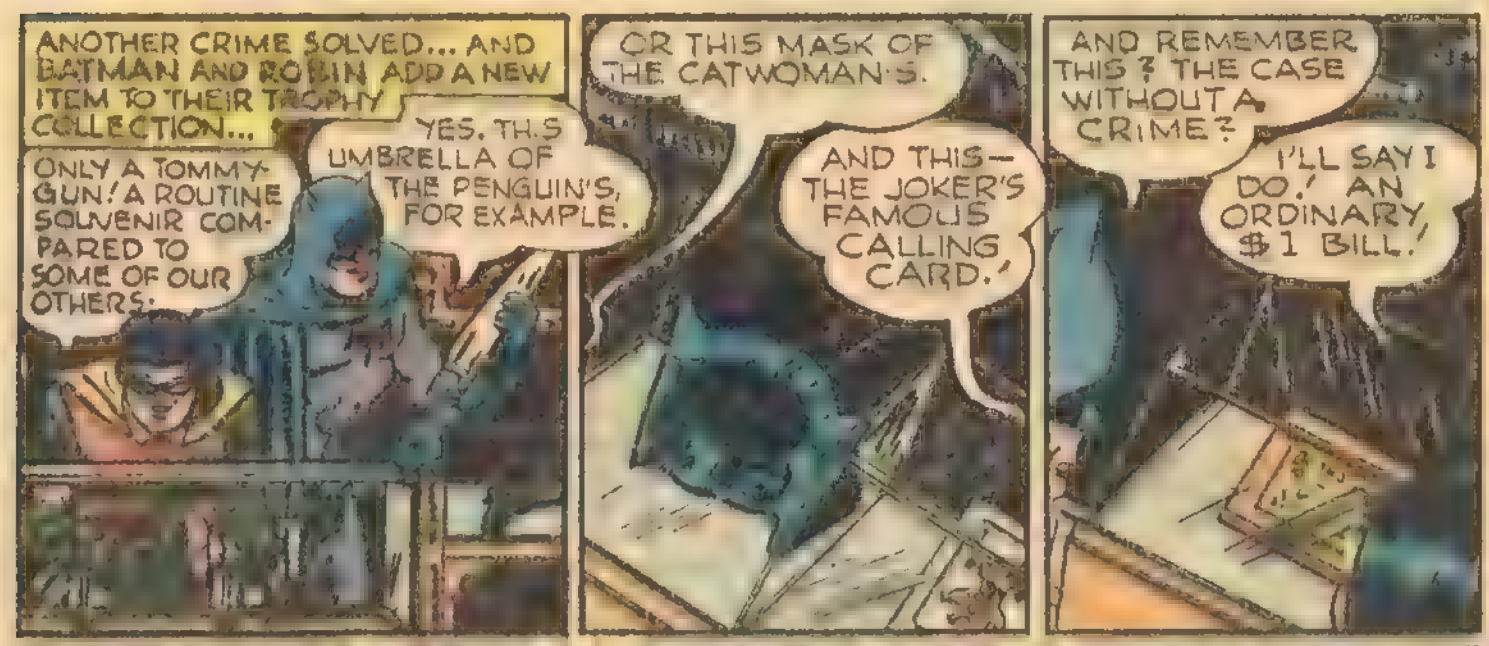
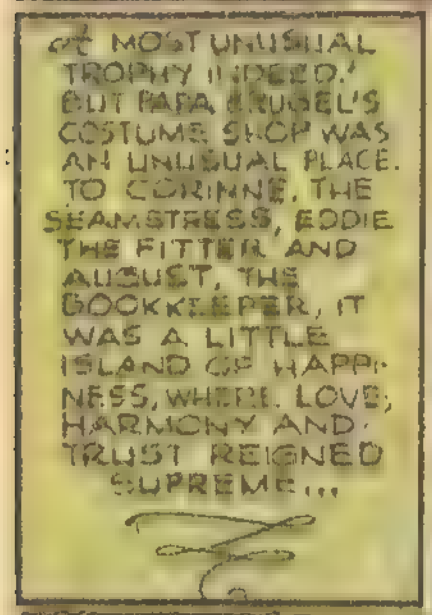
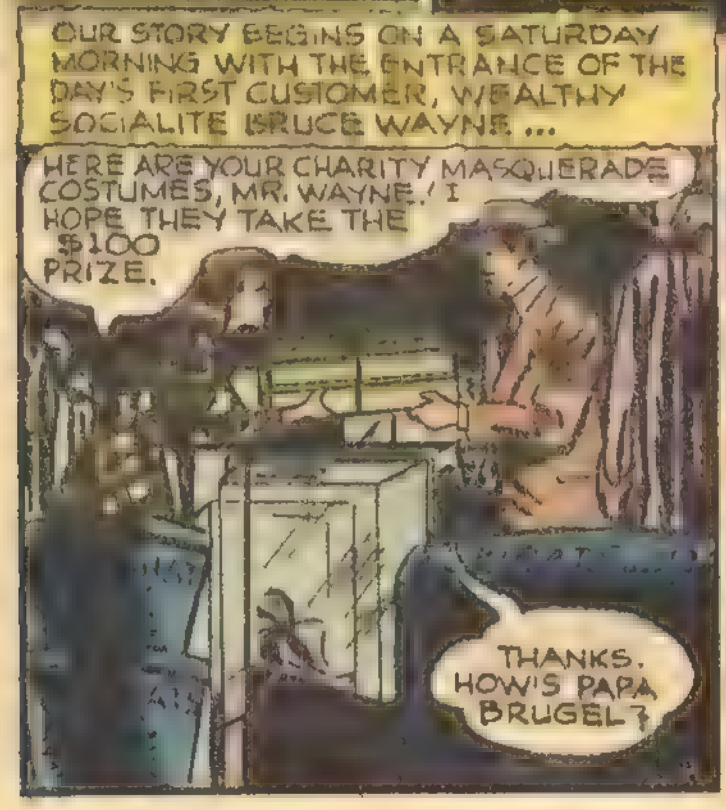
HERE IS ONE OF THE TOUGHEST CASES THE BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED! YET, STRANGELY ENOUGH, THIS ACTION-PACKED EPISODE CONTAINS NO FISTS—NO BULLETS—NO CROOKS—NO VILLAINS—NOT EVEN A CRIME!! BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE ISN'T A HEAVY CALL ON THE BRAINS AND BRAWN OF THE DYNAMIC DUO BEFORE THEY REACH THE ABSOLUTELY UNEXPECTED SOLUTION OF...
"The CASE Without A CRIME!"
ART: WIN MORTIMER
N-114!


ANOTHER CRIME SOLVED... AND BATMAN AND ROBIN ADD A NEW ITEM TO THEIR TROPHY COLLECTION...
ONLY A TOMMY-GUN! A ROUTINE SOUVENIR COMPARED TO SOME OF OUR OTHERS.
YES. THIS UMBRELLA OF THE PENGUIN'S, FOR EXAMPLE.
OR THIS MASK OF THE CATWOMAN'S.
AND THIS—THE JOKER'S FAMOUS CALLING CARD.'
AND REMEMBER THIS? THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME?
I'LL SAY I DO.' AN ORDINARY, $1 BILL.'


A MOST UNUSUAL TROPHY INDEED.' BUT PAPA BRUGEL'S COSTUME SHOP WAS AN UNUSUAL PLACE. TO CORINNE, THE SEAMSTRESS, EDDIE THE FITTER AND AUGUST, THE BOOKKEEPER, IT WAS A LITTLE ISLAND OF HAPPINESS, WHERE LOVE, HARMONY AND TRUST REIGNED SUPREME...

THESE FOUR HAD NO SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER. FOR SEVERAL YEARS THEY HAD WORKED SIDE BY SIDE, TAKING THEIR LUNCHES TOGETHER IN THE LARGE BACK ROOM. THEY WERE KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AS PAPA BRUGEL'S "FAMILY."


OUR STORY BEGINS ON A SATURDAY MORNING WITH THE ENTRANCE OF THE DAY'S FIRST CUSTOMER, WEALTHY SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE...
HERE ARE YOUR CHARITY MASQUERADE COSTUMES, MR. WAYNE.' I HOPE THEY TAKE THE $100 PRIZE.
THANKS. HOW'S PAPA BRUGEL?

CORINNE—WHERE ARE YOU?
OH! COMING, PAPA BRUGEL! HERE'S YOUR CHANGE, MR. WAYNE.
THANKS.' BETTER RUN, CORINNE. SOUNDS AS IF HE'S IN A HURRY.

THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME

SOME HOURS AFTER BRUCE'S DEPARTURE...
ACCORDING TO THE TAPE, THERE SHOULD BE $2.75 IN THE REGISTER. I'VE CHECKED TWICE, BUT $99 IS STILL MISSING. SOMEBODY MAYBE BORROWED?
NOT I, AUGUST!
NOR I. THAT'S A STRANGE FIGURE TO BE MISSING — $99...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT COULDN'T GO "POOF" JUST LIKE THAT. WE MUSTN'T TELL PAPA BRUGEL. MAYBE IT WILL TURN UP BY MONDAY...
LET BY CHANCE, PAPA BRUGEL OVERHEARD...
$99 MISSING? SURELY MY LITTLE FAMILY DOES NOT HARBOR A THIEF!
AT LUNCH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. WHO AMONG THEM COULD BE GUILTY?
EDDIE KEEPS LOOKING AT ME IN SUCH A FUNNY WAY. CAN HE REALLY BE GUILTY?
THAT EXPENSIVE WATCH SHE BOUGHT FOR MY BIRTHDAY. DID SHE REALLY SAVE THE MONEY?
THAT NIGHT, WEARING THEIR COSTUMES, BRUCE AND DICK APPEAR AT THE CHARITY MASQUERADE...
PLENTY OF JEWELRY AROUND, SO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, YOUNGSTER.
LOOK! DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
THE CATWOMAN! BUT IT MIGHT JUST BE ANOTHER COSTUME!
IT SEEMS TOO DARING EVEN FOR HER. BUT LET'S STICK CLOSE JUST IN CASE!
SAY—IS SHE REACHING FOR THE LIGHT SWITCH?

SUDDEN DARKNESS SUPPLIES THE ANSWER TO BRUCE'S QUESTION!! BUT WHILE STARTLED CRIES PIERCE THE GLOOM, TWO PIRATES DISCREETLY VANISH...
E-EEE-E! HELP!
MY NECKLACE! THE CATWOMAN!
GET THOSE LIGHTS ON!!
—AND THE RESTORED LIGHT REVEALS BATMAN AND ROBIN!!
THERE SHE GOES!
AND SHE'S GOT SOMEONE'S NECKLACE IN HER HAND!
SHE WON'T GET FAR!
BATMAN! I NEVER EXPECTED YOU HERE! BUT SO MUCH THE BETTER!
YOU MEAN, SO MUCH THE WORSE—FOR YOU!
I'LL TAKE THOSE PEARLS!
AND I'LL TAKE YOU!!
THAT'S FUNNY! THESE PEARLS ARE PASTE!
HA-HA! IT WORKED OUT BETTER THAN I EXPECTED, THANKS TO YOU TWO!
SAY— ARE YOU CRAZY?
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING
4

ARMY MEDALS. Be a major, colonel or other officer! Polished metal replicas of official army insignias. Dress up your coat or shirt with these official looking gold or silver medals with pin on back
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TRICK DECK is the champion of all decks! Backs are marked for reading and deck is also secretly gimmicked for selecting any card instantly. Looks like regular deck. You can even play an honest game of cards. Amaze your friends! Full set of instructions plus suggestions for over 20 tricks.
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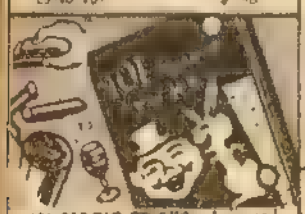

101 MAGIC TRICKS. Anyone can do them! No skill or sleight-of-hand required! Do amazing tricks with cards, coins, paper, pencils, cigarettes, handkerchiefs, etc. One trick alone is worth the price of the entire book!
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ATOMIC JOY BUZZER. Wind it up and wear it like a ring. Shake hands and watch your friends J-U-M-P! Place it on a chair and they will H-I-T the ceiling when they sit on it!
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"MONEY MAKER" a sense-tional! Insert a blank piece of paper into the machine, turn the knob . . . and, from the opposite side, PRESTO! OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert a one dollar bill and it changes to a $5.00 bill, or $10.00. No skill required. Lots of fun and mystery.
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EXPLODING FOUNTAIN PEN. Looks like a regular fountain pen. But when they start to write—look out! It goes off with a bang like a hand grenade! Can be used over and over. Harmless!
☐ No. 119 [illegible] $1.00 Each
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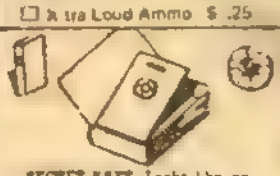

SECRET SAFE. Looks like an attractively bound book, in simulated leather, but open reveals a combination lock safe to camouflage your valuable papers, money, etc. 4 x 6 x 1¼".
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COMPLETE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR KIT. First time offered! Professional type detective badge and case. Includes professionally styled silver badge of extra heavy nickel for use by private and special investigators. PLUS authentic type carrying case and ID card. All for only $2.98
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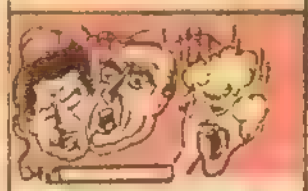

STINK LOADS. Push the load out of sight into a cigarette. After the first puff, it will taste awful and smell worse. Guaranteed to stop cigarette moochers.
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Looks like you're really bleed ing! Put a few drops on your skin, or the corner of your mouth and watch the faces of everyone who sees you—bright horror, sympathy for your apparent suffering or injury. Looks like real blood but it's harmless.
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WHOOPIE CUSHION. Simply place it on someone's chair or couch. When your favorite victim sits down—watch the fun and whoopie begin! Strange sounds, etc. is better imagined than described, will fill the air much to their embarrassment.
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MAGIC BRAIN CALCULATOR. Adds, subtracts and multiplies to 9,999,999. No knowledge needed to solve math problems. Gives homework answers. Fast, easy to operate and accurate. 5½" x 5" x 4". Fits anywhere.
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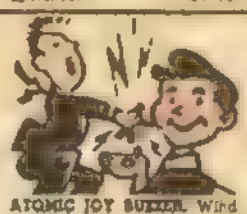
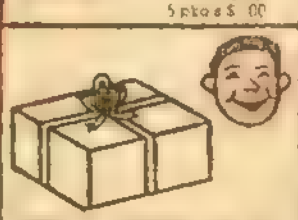
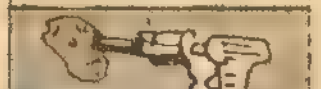


ATOMIC JOY BUZZER. Wind it up and wear it like a ring. Shake hands and watch your friends J-U-M-P! Place it on a chair and they will H-I-T the ceiling when they sit on it!
☐ No. 114 .75¢

SNOWSTORM TABLETS. Create a miniature snowstorm indoors. Will actually cover a whole room. Watch the fun start when you place one of these almost invisible tablets on the burning end of a cigarette. Watch them run for the snow shovel!
☐ No. 106 25¢ pkg
5 pkgs $1.00



SURPRISE PACKAGE. Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you will receive but because you're willing to gamble, we promise you much more than your money's worth.
☐ No. 816 25¢



POTATO GUN [illegible] fast! [illegible] gun that shoots potato pellets as far as 50 ft. with more than 300 shots from a single potato. Absolutely harmless . . . and you never run out of ammo.
☐ No. 752 $ .00

MAGIC SOAP POWDER. Sprinkle a little of this magic invisible magic powder on any soap. When anyone uses the soap their hands and face will turn bloody red. Havefun! Drives them crazy! Harmless!
☐ No. [illegible] 30¢ pkg
4 pkg's $1.00

ATOM PISTOL. Fires real blanks with the roar of a full size gun. Minutely detailed replica of an 18th century dueling pistol. About the size of half-dollar yet barrel opens to load, hammer cocks and fires when trigger is pulled. Ram rod and ammunition included. Makes a great conversation piece that you will be proud own.
☐ No. 135 $ .44
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KARATE COURSE AND CERTIFICATE. Don't be bullied! Protect yourself without weapons. Used by FBI, police, secret agents. With a simple twist of the wrist or a light jab, you can make someone twice your size and weight completely helpless. Requires barely any effort. It's brains not muscle that does it. Order now and receive a Free Karate Certificate with each course. Show it to your friends or hang it on the wall!
☐ No. 120 $1.98

IT'S 10 INSTRUMENTS IN ONE. Every hobbyist, camper, sportsman, hunter [illegible] 10—Code transmitter.
☐ No. 776

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☐ No. 104 25¢ Each
6 for $1.00

MAGIC COLOR CLOUDS. When you light one of these small bombs, huge, thick clouds of color continue to pour out. Will amaze and thrill you and your friends. Can be used for magic tricks and signaling, etc.
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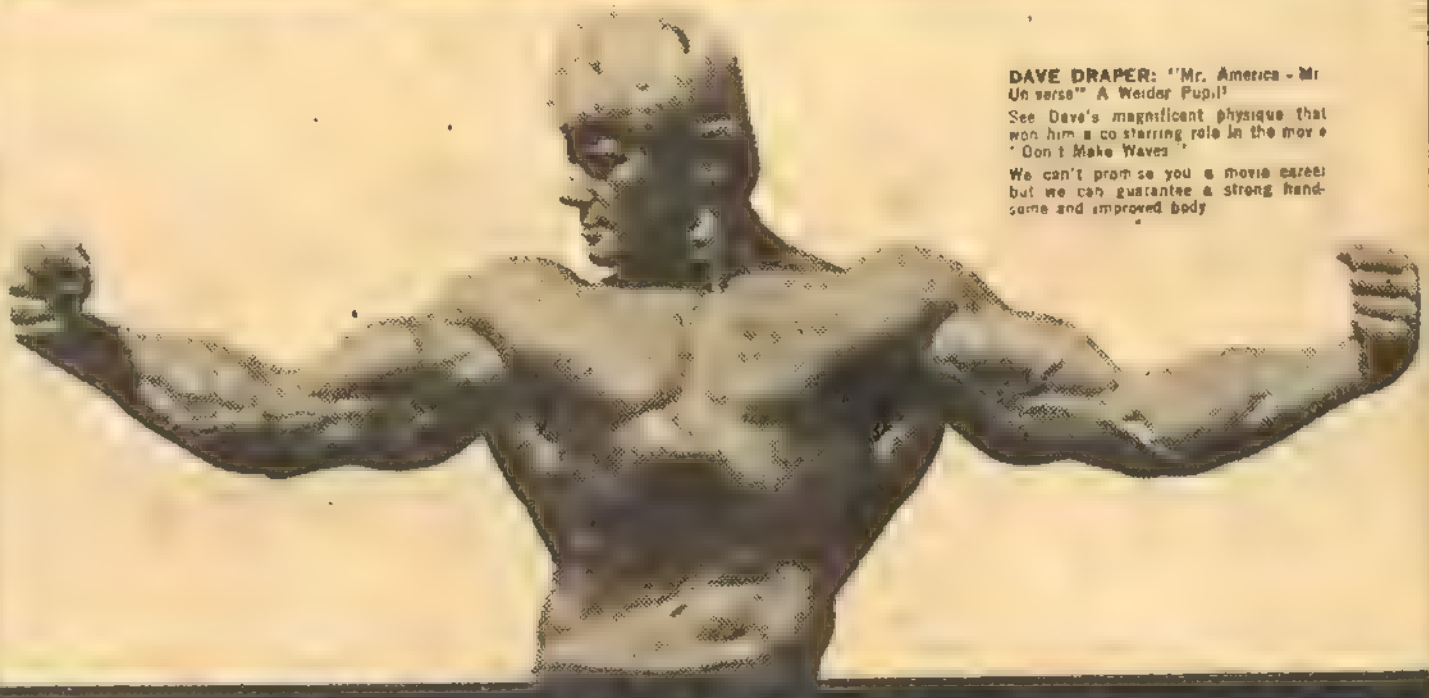

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I don't care if, today you own the skinniest, flabbiest or most laughed at body—whether you're tall or short, young or not-so-young. If you send for my FREE 32-page booklet of muscle building information, I guarantee that you will experience a muscle building miracle; before your eyes, you will see handsome muscles start bursting out all over you. They will ripple with power, burst with energy—and for the first time in your life men will envy your body, women admire it, because at last you own a body that brings you fame instead of shame. Let me help you as I did other champions—who were also weaklings—to put an end to your weakness and shame. Write now for free information—you'll be so happy you did! After all, you have nothing to lose but your weakness!

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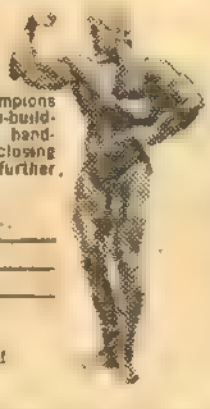

Here's the kind of body I want (Check as many as you wish).

- ☐ Bigger arms
- ☐ Larger Chest
- ☐ Broader Shoulders
- ☐ Athletic Legs
- ☐ More Weight
- ☐ Lose Weight
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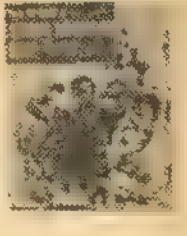
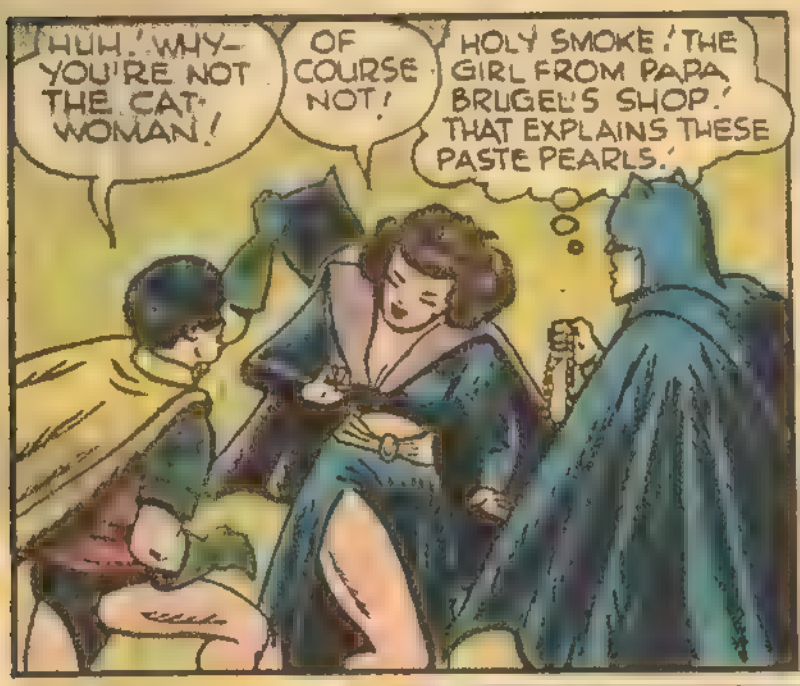
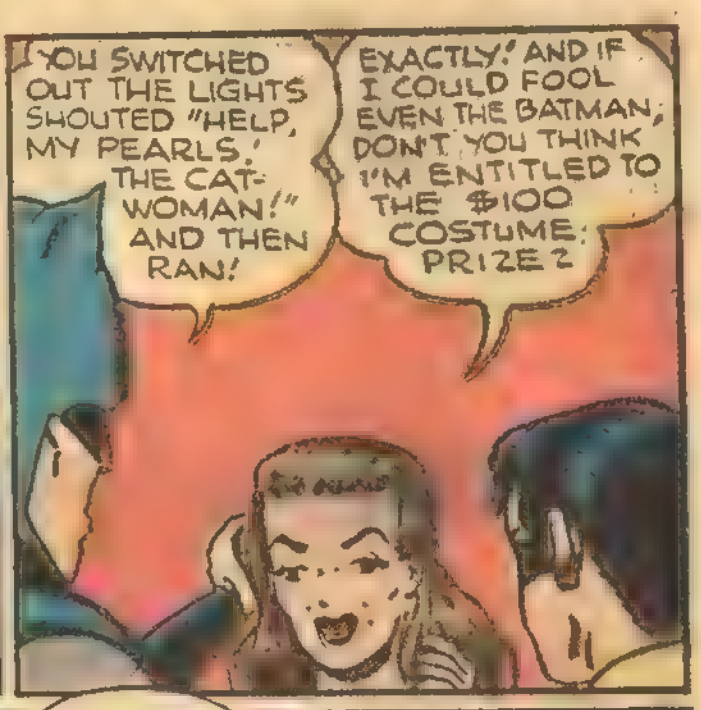
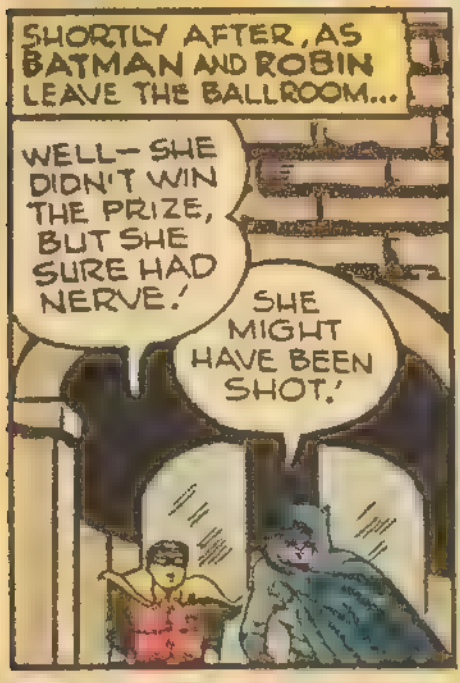
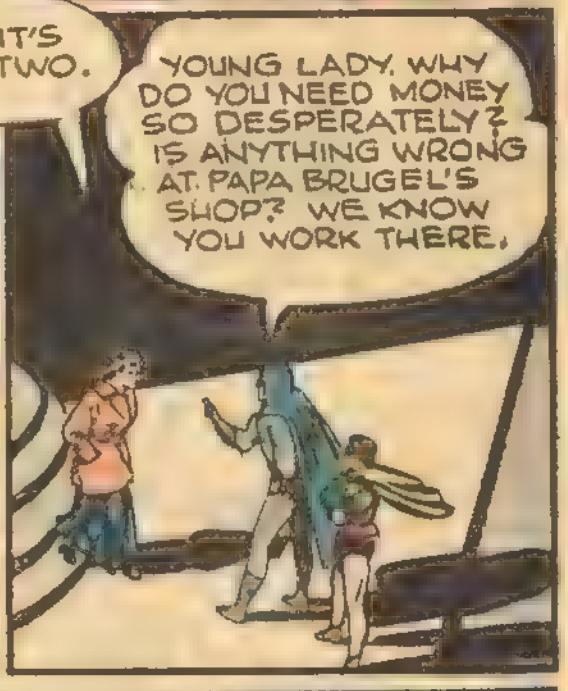


THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME




YOU SWITCHED OUT THE LIGHTS SHOUTED "HELP, MY PEARLS! THE CAT-WOMAN!" AND THEN RAN!
EXACTLY! AND IF I COULD FOOL EVEN THE BATMAN, DON'T YOU THINK I'M ENTITLED TO THE $100 COSTUME PRIZE?

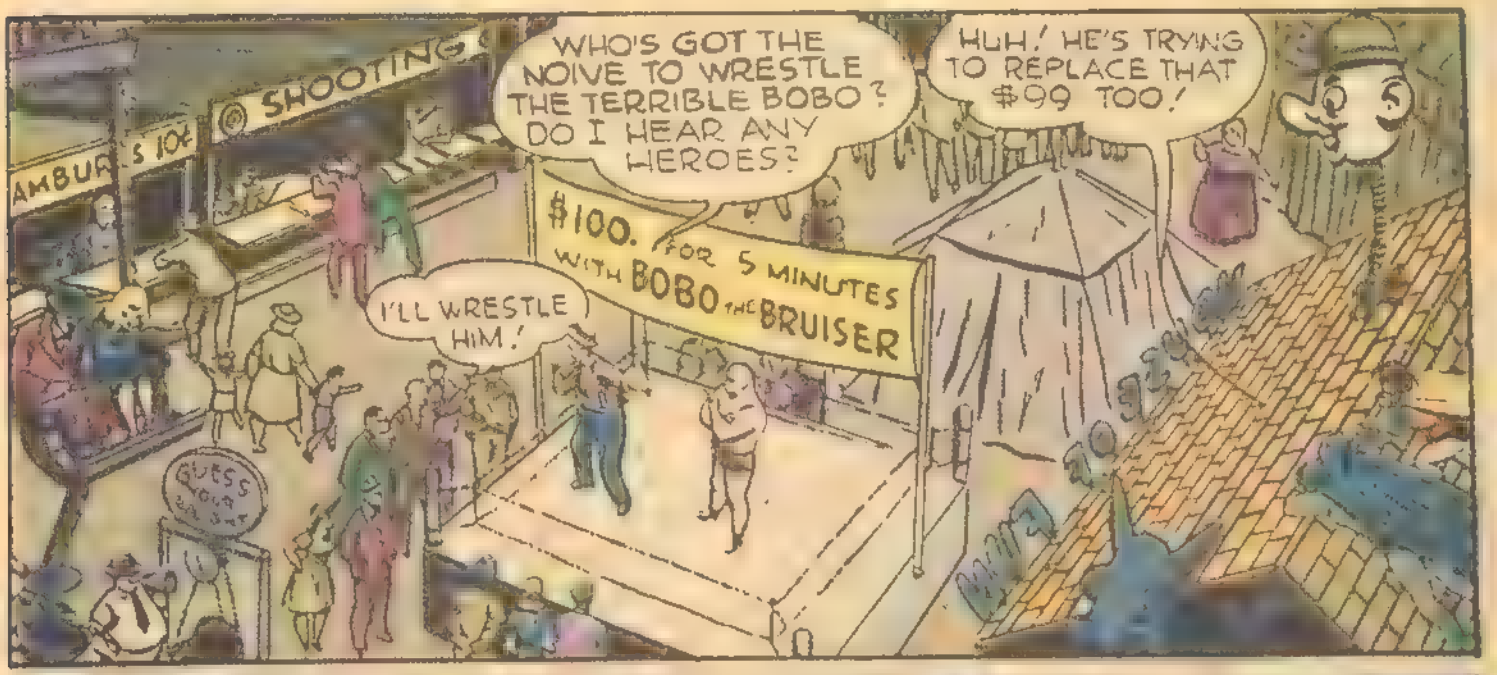

SHORTLY AFTER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN LEAVE THE BALLROOM...
WELL— SHE DIDN'T WIN THE PRIZE, BUT SHE SURE HAD NERVE!
SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOT!



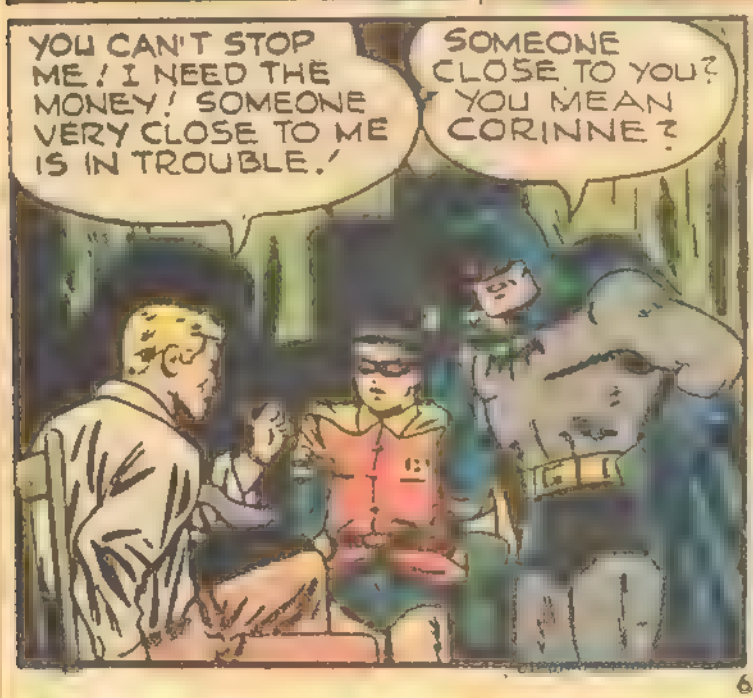
WHY, NO— I-I DID IT FOR MYSELF.
DON'T LIE! A SHY KID LIKE YOU WOULDN'T UNDERTAKE SOMETHING SO NERVY UNLESS SOMEONE SHE LOVED WERE IN TROUBLE!

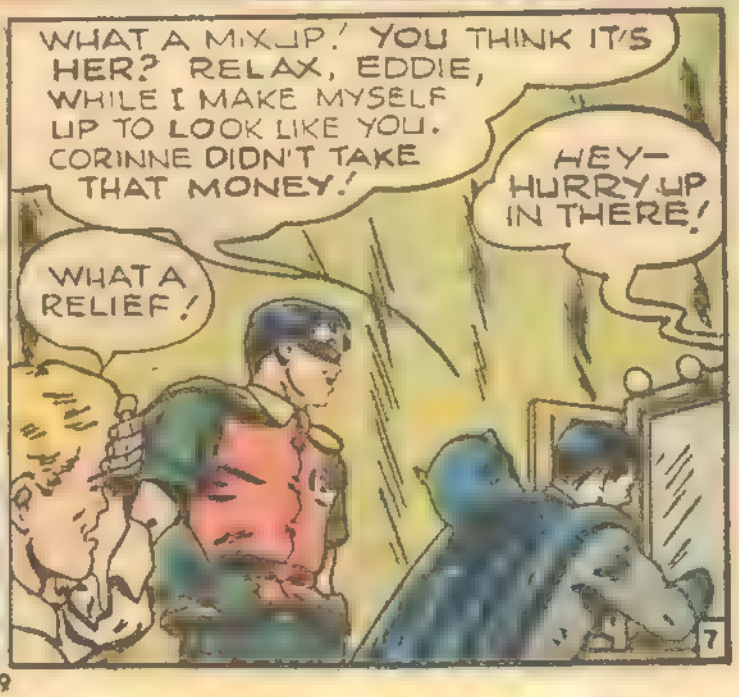
SO CORINNE TELLS BATMAN AND ROBIN OF THE $99 MISSING FROM THE CASH REGISTER...
AND EDDIE HAS AVOIDED ME ALL AFTERNOON! AFTER I PASSED HIS ROOMING HOUSE TONIGHT AND SAW HIS LIGHT ON, I PHONED, BUT HIS LANDLADY SAID HE WASN'T IN! HE MUST HAVE TOLD HER TO SAY THAT!
I'M SO WORRIED... BUT I DON'T WANT HIM TO THINK I SUSPECT HIM OF THE THEFT.
YOU STOP WORRYING AND STOP TAKING CHANCES. I'LL SEE EDDIE MYSELF, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
AN AWFUL FUSS OVER $99. THAT LITTLE SHOP TAKES IN SEVERAL THOUSANDS A WEEK. COULDN'T THERE HAVE BEEN AN ERROR?
IT ISN'T JUST THE $99, ROBIN...
FOUR PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED. IF THE TRUTH ISN'T DISCOVERED, SUSPICION OF EACH OTHER CAN DESTROY EVERYTHING THEY'VE BUILT UP. YOU CAN'T MEASURE THE HAPPINESS OF FOUR PEOPLE IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
SO SUNDAY NOON, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN APPROACH EDDIE'S HOUSE...
LOOK- THAT'S EDDIE COMING OUT NOW!
GET BACK! WE'LL SHADOW HIM FOR A WHILE. MAYBE WE'LL LEARN MORE THAT WAY!
WHY- HE'S ONLY GOING TO THE CARNIVAL! WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME.
THINK SO? WHO GOES TO A CARNIVAL WITH SUCH A LONG FACE? AND IT'S SUNDAY! WHERE'S HIS GIRL? WE'RE STICKING AROUND.
ADMISSION FRE
6

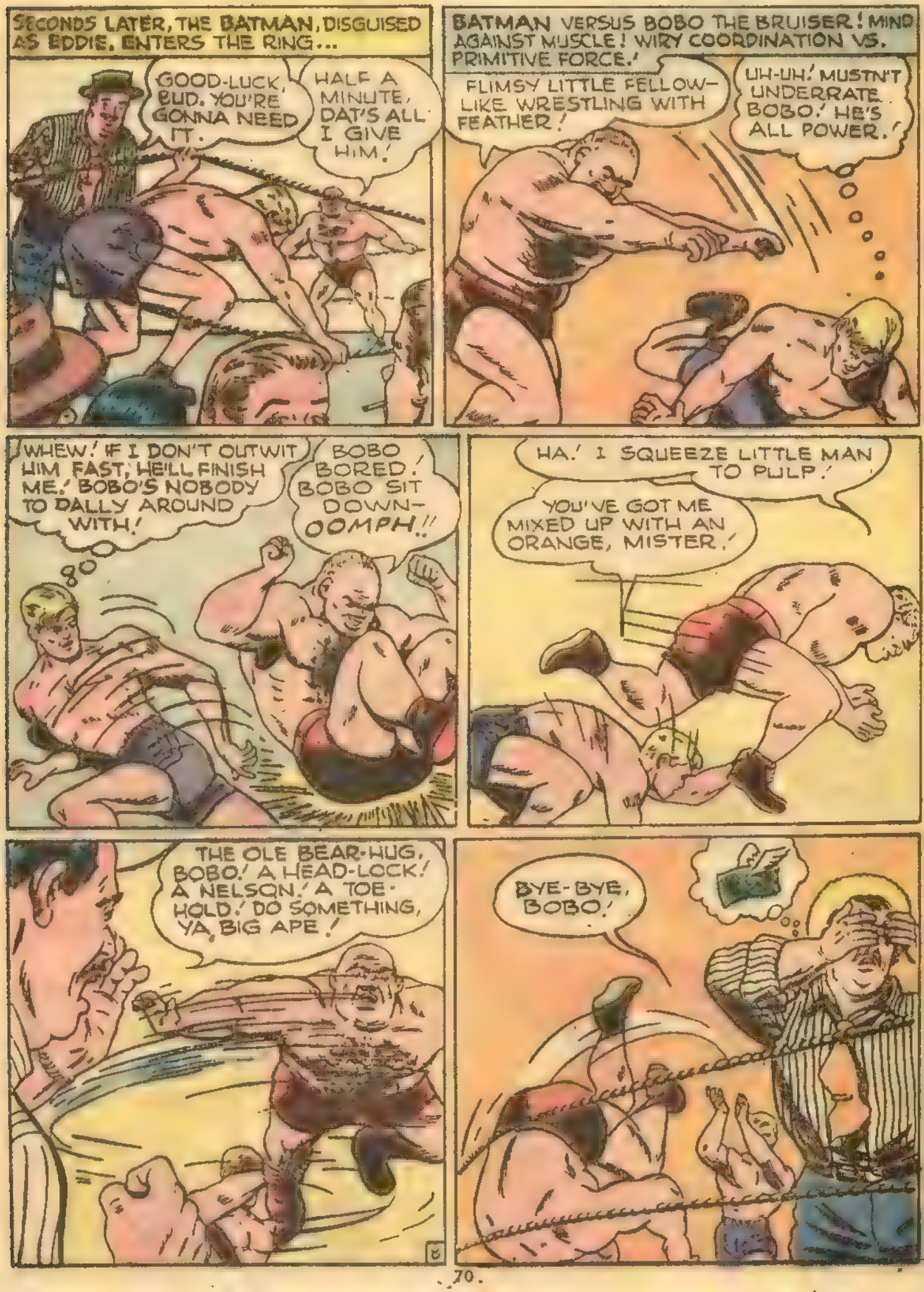
THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME


SHOOTING
AMBUR
$ 10¢
WHO'S GOT THE NOIVE TO WRESTLE THE TERRIBLE BOBO? DO I HEAR ANY HEROES?
HUH! HE'S TRYING TO REPLACE THAT $99 TOO!
$100. FOR 5 MINUTES WITH BOBO THE BRUISER
I'LL WRESTLE HIM!
GUESS YOUR SIZE

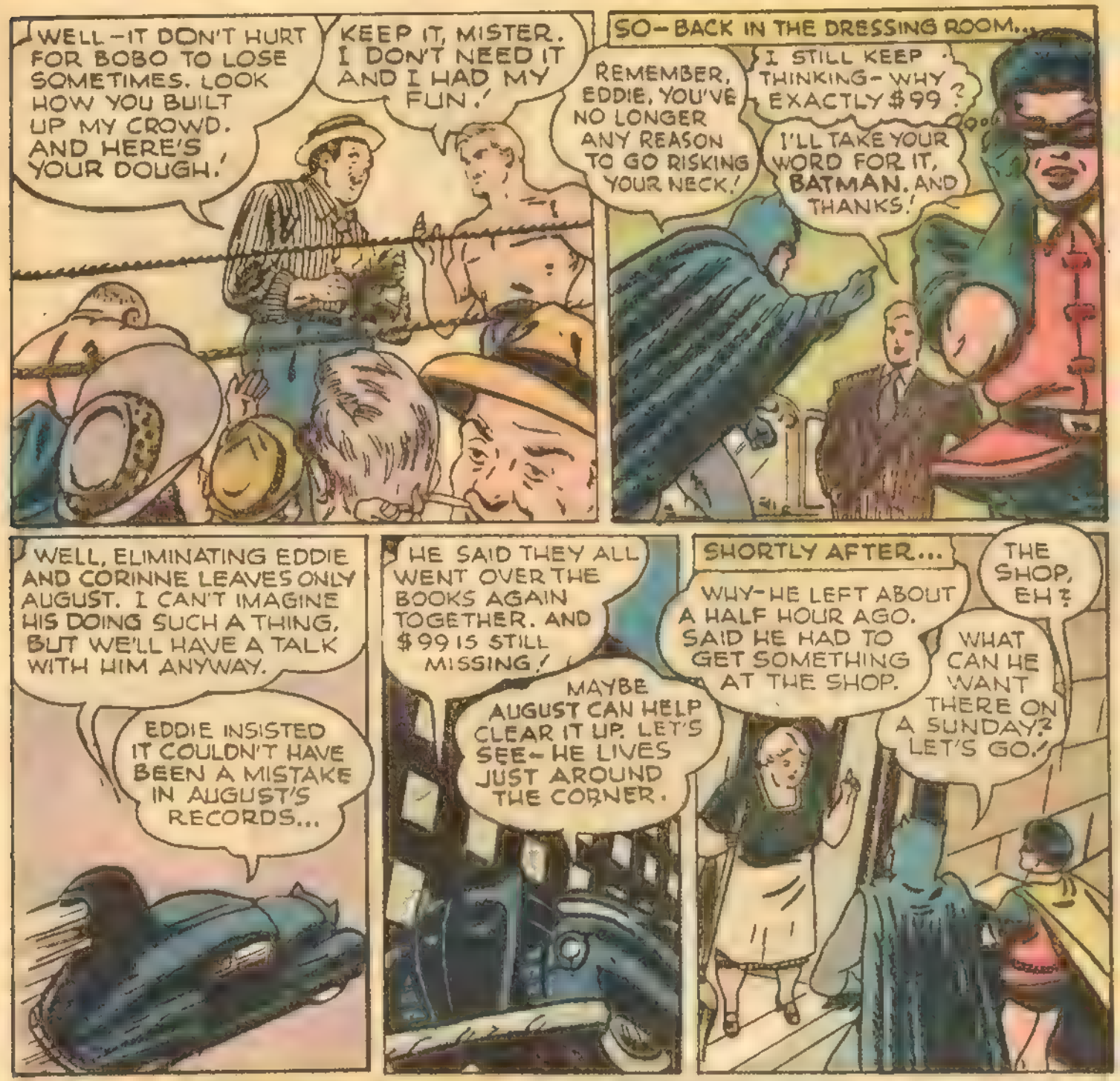
OKAY, YOUNG FELLER. GET INTO THESE SHORTS IN THAT TENT.
BUT WE CAN'T LET HIM GO THROUGH WITH IT! HE HAS NO EXPER'ENCE! HE'LL BE MASSACRED!

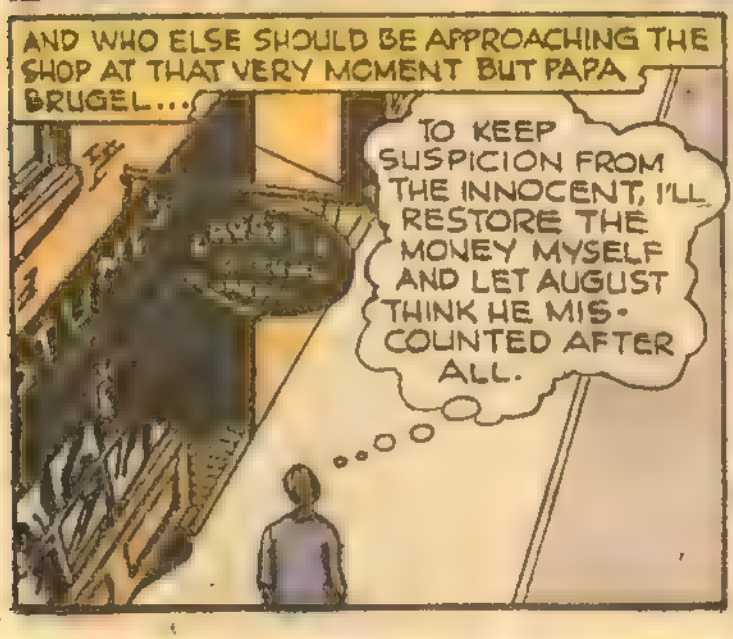



WHAT A MIX-UP! YOU THINK IT'S HER? RELAX, EDDIE, WHILE I MAKE MYSELF UP TO LOOK LIKE YOU. CORINNE DIDN'T TAKE THAT MONEY!
HEY— HURRY UP IN THERE!
WHAT A RELIEF!
7


SECONDS LATER, THE BATMAN, DISGUISED AS EDDIE, ENTERS THE RING...
GOOD-LUCK, BUD. YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT.
HALF A MINUTE, DAT'S ALL I GIVE HIM!
BATMAN VERSUS BOBO THE BRUISER! MIND AGAINST MUSCLE! WIRY COORDINATION VS. PRIMITIVE FORCE!
FLIMSY LITTLE FELLOW—LIKE WRESTLING WITH FEATHER!
UH-UH! MUSTN'T UNDERRATE BOBO! HE'S ALL POWER!
WHEW! IF I DON'T OUTWIT HIM FAST, HE'LL FINISH ME! BOBO'S NOBODY TO DALLY AROUND WITH!
BOBO BORED! BOBO SIT DOWN—OOMPH!!
HA! I SQUEEZE LITTLE MAN TO PULP!
YOU'VE GOT ME MIXED UP WITH AN ORANGE, MISTER!
THE OLE BEAR-HUG, BOBO! A HEAD-LOCK! A NELSON! A TOE-HOLD! DO SOMETHING, YA, BIG APE!
BYE-BYE, BOBO!

THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME


WELL—IT DON'T HURT FOR BOBO TO LOSE SOMETIMES. LOOK HOW YOU BUILT UP MY CROWD. AND HERE'S YOUR DOUGH.
KEEP IT, MISTER. I DON'T NEED IT AND I HAD MY FUN.
SO—BACK IN THE DRESSING ROOM...
REMEMBER, EDDIE, YOU'VE NO LONGER ANY REASON TO GO RISKING YOUR NECK!
I STILL KEEP THINKING—WHY EXACTLY $99?
I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT, BATMAN. AND THANKS!
WELL, ELIMINATING EDDIE AND CORINNE LEAVES ONLY AUGUST. I CAN'T IMAGINE HIS DOING SUCH A THING, BUT WE'LL HAVE A TALK WITH HIM ANYWAY.
EDDIE INSISTED IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE IN AUGUST'S RECORDS...
HE SAID THEY ALL WENT OVER THE BOOKS AGAIN TOGETHER. AND $99 IS STILL MISSING!
MAYBE AUGUST CAN HELP CLEAR IT UP. LET'S SEE—HE LIVES JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
SHORTLY AFTER...
WHY—HE LEFT ABOUT A HALF HOUR AGO. SAID HE HAD TO GET SOMETHING AT THE SHOP.
THE SHOP, EH?
WHAT CAN HE WANT THERE ON A SUNDAY? LET'S GO!


AND WHO ELSE SHOULD BE APPROACHING THE SHOP AT THAT VERY MOMENT BUT PAPA BRUGEL...
TO KEEP SUSPICION FROM THE INNOCENT, I'LL RESTORE THE MONEY MYSELF AND LET AUGUST THINK HE MIS-COUNTED AFTER ALL.

AS PAPA BRUGEL SPRINGS, THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE TURNS! A WORDLESS SCUFFLE FOLLOWS...
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE...
LOOK—THE DOOR'S OPEN! AND THERE'S A FIGHT INSIDE!
QUICK—! WE'LL GET THE LIGHTS ON AND GRAB THEM!
PAPA BRUGEL!
AUGUST!
GREAT SCOTT!!
SO—YOU WERE TRYING TO PUT $99 BACK IN THE REGISTER TO COVER THE THIEF!
AND YOU TOO, I SEE! SO YOU KNEW ABOUT THE THEFT ALL THE TIME!
WHICH MEANS IT WAS EITHER CORINNE OR EDDIE. BUT I DON'T CARE! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A GOOD REASON!
JUST A MOMENT!
AM I DISAGREEING WITH YOU, PAPA BRUGEL?
THOSE TWO ARE INNOCENT! I MADE SURE OF THAT!
WHAT? BUT WHO ELSE?
HURRAH! DIDN'T I TELL YOU THERE WERE NO THIEVES IN MY SHOP, AUGUST?

THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME

ARE YOU SURE NO ONE ELSE HAD ACCESS TO THE CASH REGISTER?
POSITIVE! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!
SO—ALL RIGHT. DO YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING? FORGET IT!
IT BEATS ME WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THAT $99.
WELL—THE AMOUNT'S TRIVIAL. AT LEAST WE GOT THOSE FOUR PEOPLE STRAIGHTENED OUT. THAT'S WHAT COUNTS.
NEXT MORNING AT THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE...
START BREAKFAST, DICK. I'LL BE IN SOON'S I FINISH DRESSING.
ANY BRIGHT IDEAS DURING THE NIGHT ON WHAT BECAME OF THAT $99?
HOLY SMOKE! I'VE SOLVED IT!
HUH?
YOU MEAN THE $99? TELL ME!
COME ON—WE'VE GOT TO GET TO PAPA BRUGEL'S SHOP RIGHT AWAY.
SHORTLY AFTER...
GOOD MORNING, MR. WAYNE! WHAT BRINGS YOU IN SO EARLY?
A LITTLE MISTAKE YOU MADE WHEN I PAID FOR THOSE COSTUMES LAST SATURDAY.
LOUIS XIV

GOING THROUGH MY WALLET THIS MORNING, I FOUND A $100 BILL I COULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR.' YOU MUST'VE GIVEN IT TO ME BY MISTAKE INSTEAD OF $1 CHANGE.
REMEMBER? PAPA BRUGEL CALLED YOU WHEN YOU WERE MAKING CHANGE. YOU NEVER LOOKED AT THE REGISTER AND I DIDN'T NOTICE EITHER... SAY- WHY DOES EVERYONE LOOK SO FUNNY?
OH- NOTHING...
I-I WAS JUST REMINDED OF A CASE THAT THE BATMAN NEVER SOLVED.'
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. WAYNE. AND COME AGAIN SOON.
HOLD ON, PAPA BRUGEL.' YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING. YOU'VE GOT YOUR HUNDRED BACK, SO-
PIRATE HAT
-YOU STILL OWE ME MY DOLLAR IN CHANGE.'
GOODNESS.' I'M SO ABSENT-MINDED.' FIRST THING YOU KNOW, I'LL SUSPECT MYSELF OF BEING A THIEF.'
AND THAT, READER, EXPLAINS HOW A $1 BILL CAME TO BE IN THE TROPHY ROOM DISPLAY FOR
THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME
THE END

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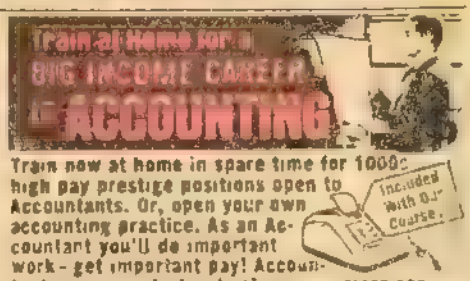

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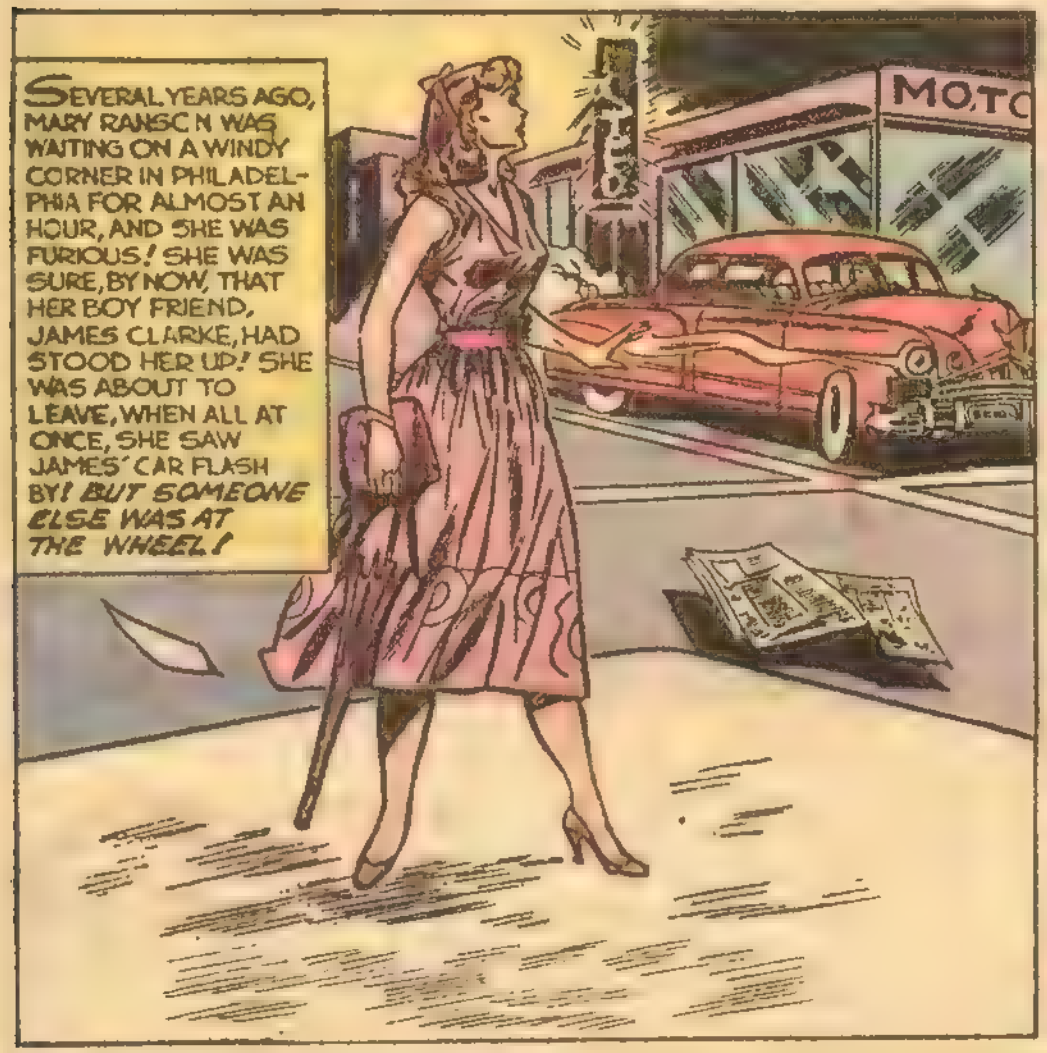
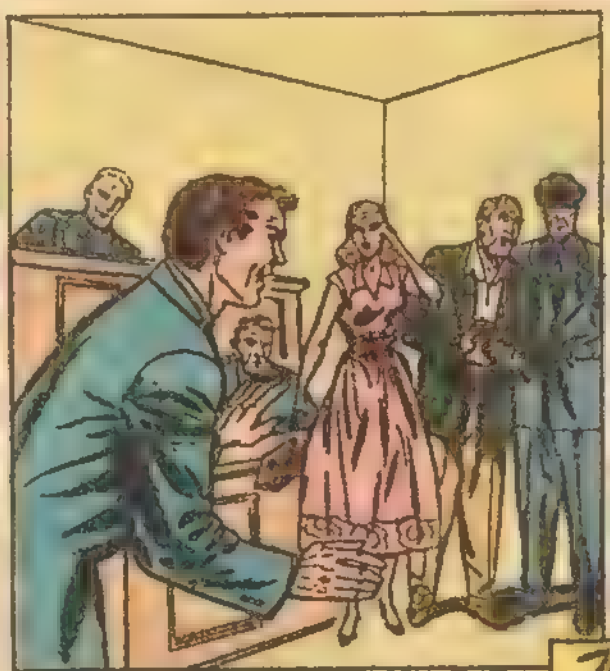

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, MARY RANSON WAS WAITING ON A WINDY CORNER IN PHILADELPHIA FOR ALMOST AN HOUR, AND SHE WAS FURIOUS! SHE WAS SURE, BY NOW, THAT HER BOY FRIEND, JAMES CLARKE, HAD STOOD HER UP! SHE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE, WHEN ALL AT ONCE, SHE SAW JAMES' CAR FLASH BY! BUT SOMEONE ELSE WAS AT THE WHEEL!
MOTO

SENSING IMMEDIATELY THAT SOMETHING WAS AMISS, SHE LOST NO TIME IN HAILING A TRAFFIC OFFICER WHO GAVE CHASE AND HALTED THE CAR!


THEN, STRANGELY ENOUGH, AS THEY ENTERED THE PRECINCT... THERE WAS JAMES CLARKE, HER BOYFRIEND! HE HAD NOT STOOD HER UP AFTER ALL, BUT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF REPORTING THE THEFT OF HIS VEHICLE!

THUS, BECAUSE OF THIS UNUSUAL MESHING OF CHANCE, A THEFT WAS COMMITTED, REPORTED, THE CULPRIT ARRESTED, AND THE GOODS RETURNED ALL IN THE SPACE OF SIXTY MINUTES!

MY TURN NOW, I BELIEVE! AS YOU KNOW, I AM SOMETHING OF A SLEUTH MYSELF!

IN FACT, I SEEM TO RUN INTO CRIMINALS IN ALL SORTS OF PLACES...EVEN IN A *RESTAURANT*...

The Adventures of ALFRED

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"THE WORLD'S MINE OYSTER", SAID WILL SHAKESPEARE, EXPRESSING TO A 'T' THE SENTIMENTS OF ALFRED, BUTLER EXTRAORDINARY! BUT EVEN AN OYSTER CAN FURNISH SURPRISES, AND ALFRED'S AMAZEMENT IS EXTREME WHEN AN UNSELFISH SHELLFISH PRESENTS... "The PEARL of PERIL!"

ART: JERRY ROBINSON

AN UNUSUAL OCCASION IN THE LIFE OF ALFRED!

THE MAWSTERS ARE VISITING FRIENDS AND WON'T RETURN UNTIL LATE, SO THERE'S NO NEED OF MY COOKING! I'LL SEE WHAT RESTAURANT FOOD TASTES LIKE!

HMM, SEEMS THAT ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE EAT HERE! BUT AFTER ALL, THE FOOD'S THE THING... I HOPE IT'S GOOD!

MENU

BUT ALFRED'S ATTENTION IS SOON TURNED FROM HIS OWN FOOD TO THAT OF OTHERS! IN THE MIDST OF THE MEAL...

L-LOOK!

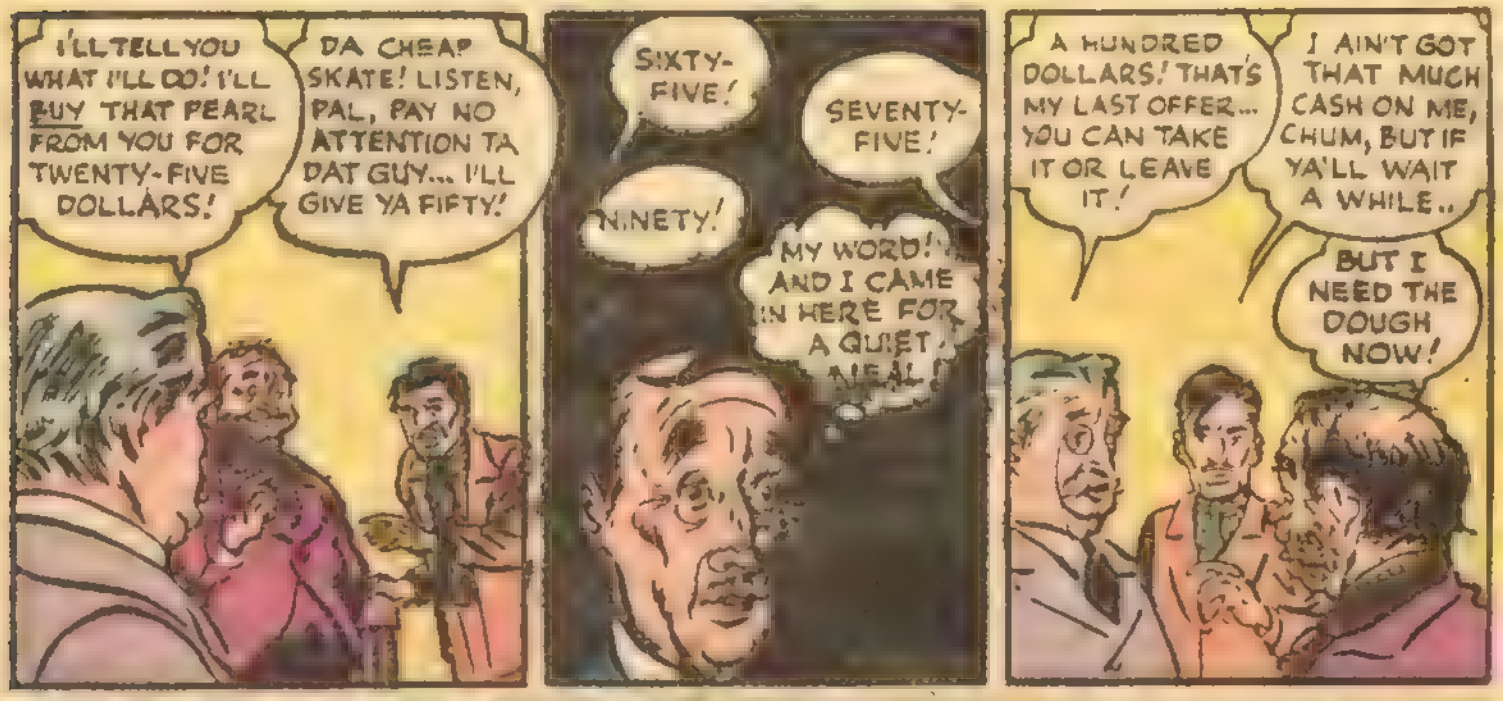
WHAT'S THAT, MY GOOD FELLOW?

N-1142

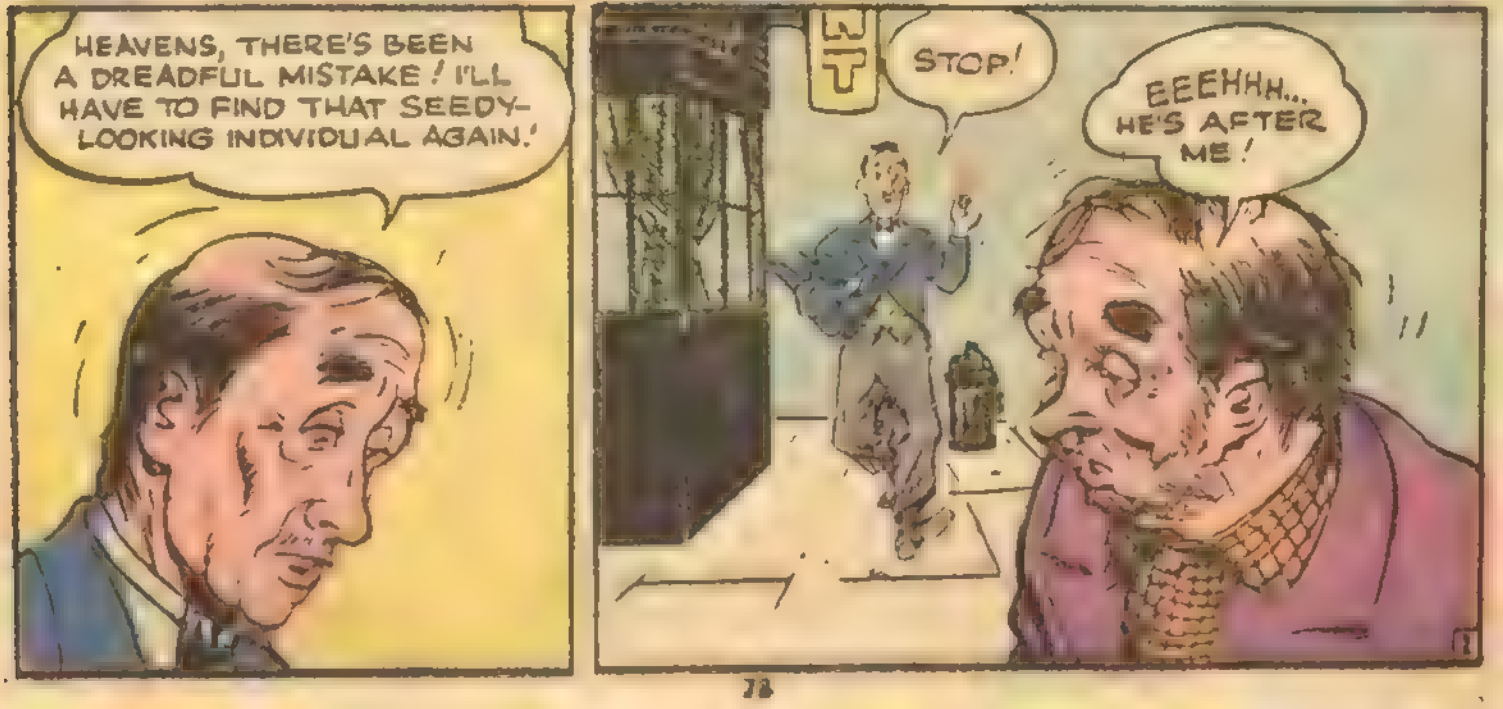
A POIL, RIGHT IN DA MIDDLE OF AN ERSTER! FROM DA SIZE OF IT, IT MUST BE WORTH A GRAND! I'M RICH!

OH, OH, WHY COULDN'T THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO ME?

BUT I JUST REMEMBERED! I AIN'T GOT ANY CASH ON ME, AND I CAN'T PAY FER DIS MEAL! WILL SOMEBODY KINDLY LEND ME A SMACKER TILL I KIN SELL DIS?


I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'LL DO! I'LL BUY THAT PEARL FROM YOU FOR TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS!
DA CHEAP SKATE! LISTEN, PAL, PAY NO ATTENTION TA DAT GUY... I'LL GIVE YA FIFTY!
SIXTY-FIVE!
SEVENTY-FIVE!
NINETY!
MY WORD! AND I CAME IN HERE FOR A QUIET MEAL!
A HUNDRED DOLLARS! THAT'S MY LAST OFFER... YOU CAN TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!
I AIN'T GOT THAT MUCH CASH ON ME, CHUM, BUT IF YA'LL WAIT A WHILE..
BUT I NEED THE DOUGH NOW!

OKAY, PAL, GIMME DA CASH AN' DA FOIL'S YOURS! BUT IT'S ROBBERY, I TELL YA! IF I DIDN'T NEED DA DOUGH SO BAD, YA'D NEVER GET IT FOR UNDER A GRAND!
DA LUCKY BUM! BUT HE AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY WID DAT!
I'LL SHOW 'IM!
WELL, THANK GOODNESS THAT'S OVER WITH! NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO ENJOY MY MEAL AGAIN!


HEAVENS, THERE'S BEEN A DREADFUL MISTAKE! I'LL HAVE TO FIND THAT SEEDY-LOOKING INDIVIDUAL AGAIN!
STOP!
EEEHHH... HE'S AFTER ME!

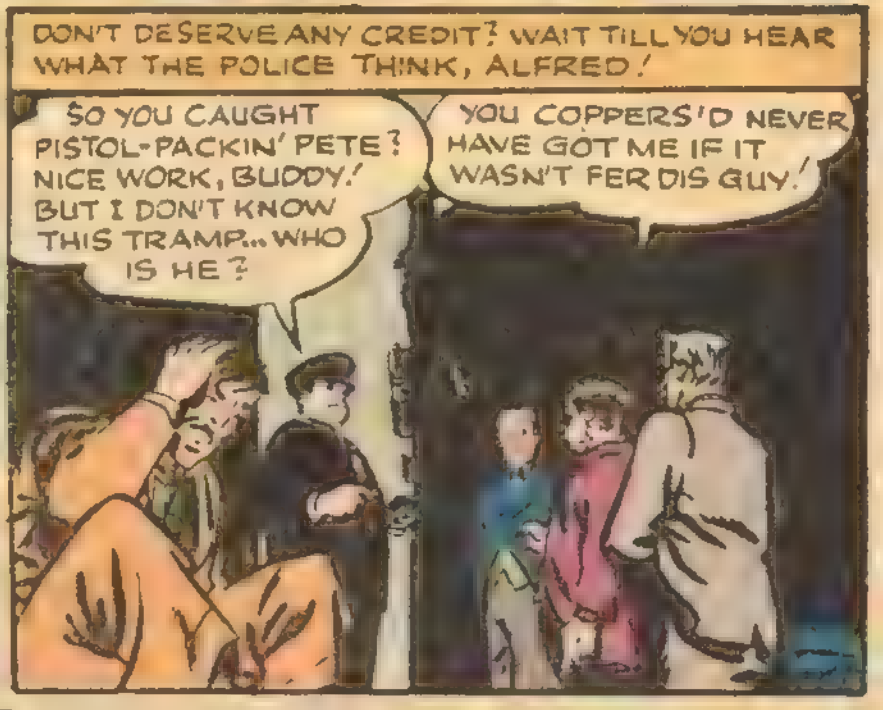
THE PEARL OF PERIL

STOP!
MAYBE I KIN LOSE HIM IN DIS ALLEY!
HUH..? YOU GUYS AGAIN? CAN'T A GUY PULL A QUIET STICKUP WIDOUT YOUR POKIN' YOUR NOSES IN?
HEY..!
OOPS!
WELL, WHADDYA KNOW ABOUT DAT! T'ANKS FER DA ROSCOE, CHUM!
MAYBE NOW YA'LL LAY OFF ME! BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE DERE AIN'T NO EVIDENCE, I'LL TAKE DAT POIL...
AFTER I WENT TO DA TROUBLE OF HOLDIN' DA FAT GUY UP FER IT? NO, YA DON'T, CHUM!
GO AHEAD AND SHOOT IF YA WANT... IT'LL ONLY HOIT DA SAP, NOT ME!
MY WORD!
YOW... ME HEAD!
BOP
TAKE THAT..!
GREAT SCOTT, IF I COULD ONLY REGAIN MY BALANCE..!

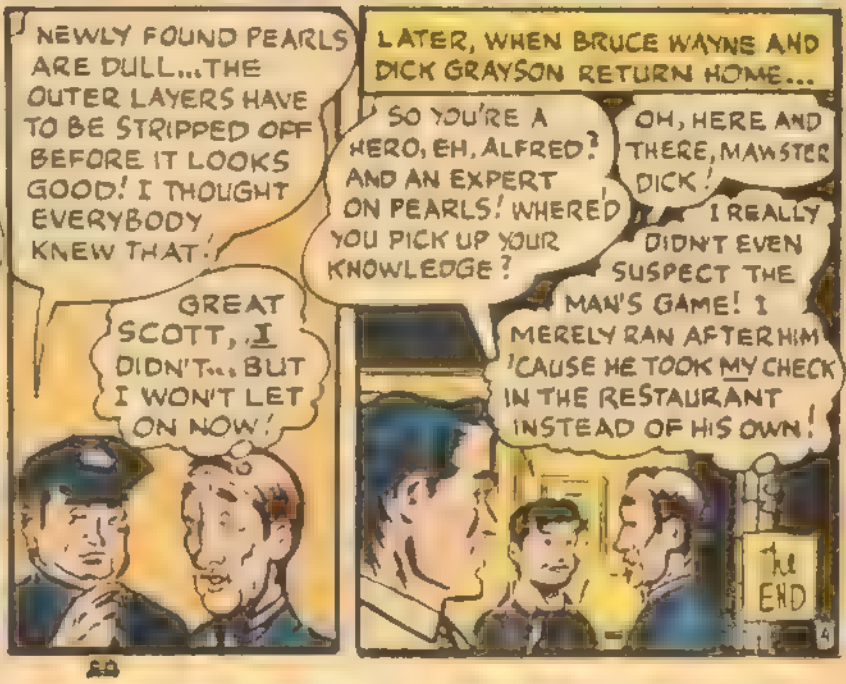
AAAA...
MISSED..!
POW!

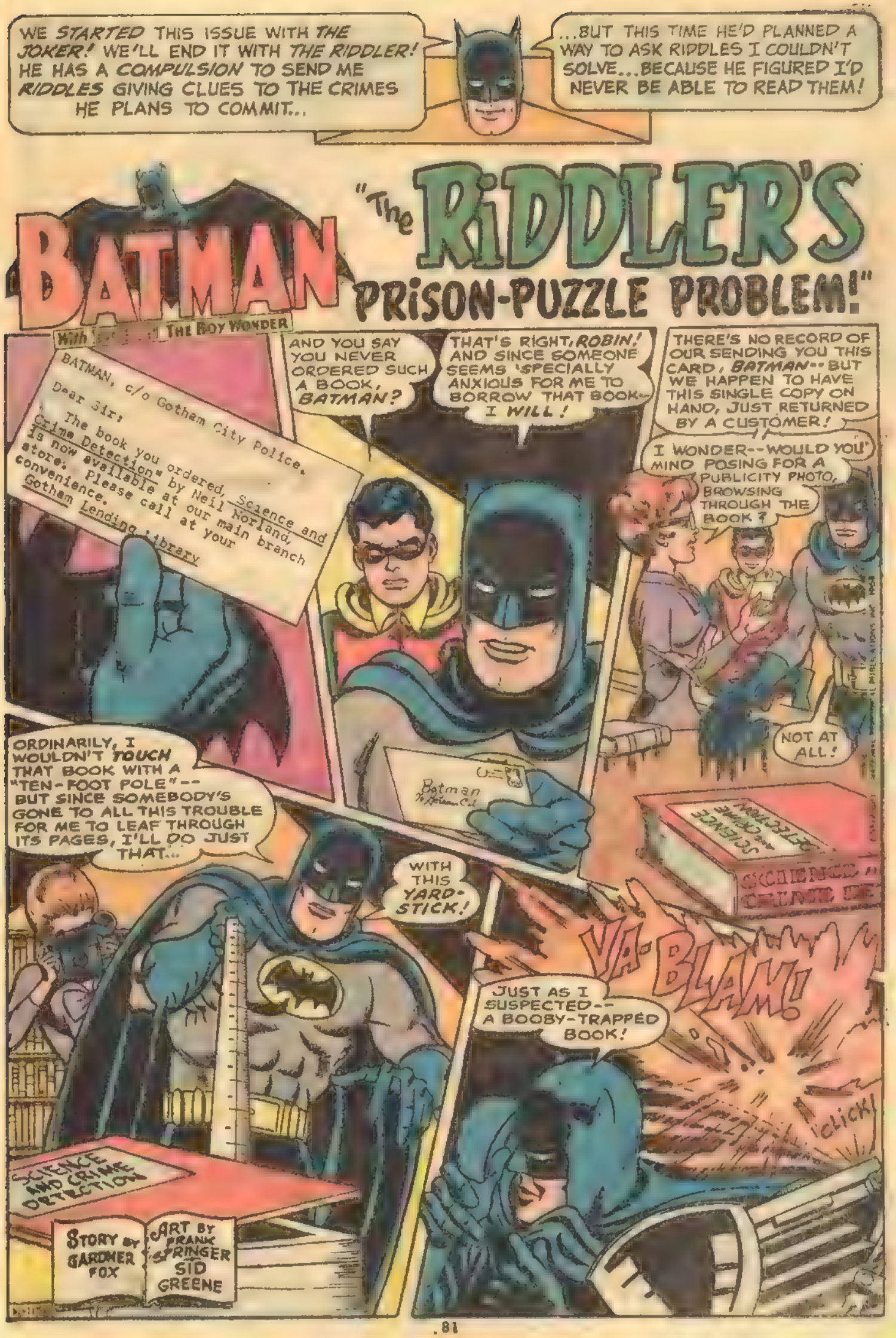
DAT BUMP MADE ME DIZZY... I CAN'T SEE... AAA...
HE'S FAINTED!

YOU'RE A WONDER, FRIEND! THE WAY YOU TACKLED THOSE MEN, AND THE WAY YOU DODGED THAT BLOW... MASTERFUL, NO LESS!
ER, THANK YOU, BUT IT WAS REALLY NOTHING! I REALLY DON'T DESERVE ANY CREDIT!


DON'T DESERVE ANY CREDIT? WAIT TILL YOU HEAR WHAT THE POLICE THINK, ALFRED!
SO YOU CAUGHT PISTOL-PACKIN' PETE? NICE WORK, BUDDY! BUT I DON'T KNOW THIS TRAMP... WHO IS HE?
YOU COPPERS'D NEVER HAVE GOT ME IF IT WASN'T FER DIS GUY!

MY LUCK HE HAD TA BE AN EXPOIT, AN' SPOT DA POIL AS AN IMITATION! UNTIL NOW, I HAD A GOOD RACKET MAKIN' BELIEVE TO FIND POILS IN OYSTERS AN' SELLIN' 'EM TA RICH SAPS!
BUT-BUT-YOU MADE A MISTAKE—I—
I'LL SAY HE DID! I'M NO EXPERT, BUT I KNOW THIS PEARL DIDN'T JUST COME FROM ANY OYSTER!


NEWLY FOUND PEARLS ARE DULL... THE OUTER LAYERS HAVE TO BE STRIPPED OFF BEFORE IT LOOKS GOOD! I THOUGHT EVERYBODY KNEW THAT!
GREAT SCOTT, I DIDN'T... BUT I WON'T LET ON NOW!
LATER, WHEN BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON RETURN HOME...
SO YOU'RE A HERO, EH, ALFRED? AND AN EXPERT ON PEARLS! WHERE'D YOU PICK UP YOUR KNOWLEDGE?
OH, HERE AND THERE, MAWSTER DICK!
I REALLY DIDN'T EVEN SUSPECT THE MAN'S GAME! I MERELY RAN AFTER HIM 'CAUSE HE TOOK MY CHECK IN THE RESTAURANT INSTEAD OF HIS OWN!
THE END


WE STARTED THIS ISSUE WITH THE JOKER! WE'LL END IT WITH THE RIDDLER! HE HAS A COMPULSION TO SEND ME RIDDLES GIVING CLUES TO THE CRIMES HE PLANS TO COMMIT...
...BUT THIS TIME HE'D PLANNED A WAY TO ASK RIDDLES I COULDN'T SOLVE...BECAUSE HE FIGURED I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO READ THEM!
BATMAN
"The RIDDLER'S PRISON-PUZZLE PROBLEM!"
With THE BOY WONDER
BATMAN, c/o Gotham City Police.
Dear Sir;
The book you ordered, Science and Crime Detection by Neil Norland, is now available at our main branch store. Please call at your convenience.
Gotham Lending Library
AND YOU SAY YOU NEVER ORDERED SUCH A BOOK, BATMAN?
THAT'S RIGHT, ROBIN! AND SINCE SOMEONE SEEMS 'SPECIALLY ANXIOUS FOR ME TO BORROW THAT BOOK-- I WILL!
THERE'S NO RECORD OF OUR SENDING YOU THIS CARD, BATMAN-- BUT WE HAPPEN TO HAVE THIS SINGLE COPY ON HAND, JUST RETURNED BY A CUSTOMER!
I WONDER--WOULD YOU MIND POSING FOR A PUBLICITY PHOTO, BROWSING THROUGH THE BOOK?
NOT AT ALL!
ORDINARILY, I WOULDN'T TOUCH THAT BOOK WITH A "TEN-FOOT POLE"-- BUT SINCE SOMEBODY'S GONE TO ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR ME TO LEAF THROUGH ITS PAGES, I'LL DO JUST THAT...
WITH THIS YARD-STICK!
YA-BLAM!
JUST AS I SUSPECTED-- A BOOBY-TRAPPED BOOK!
click!
SCIENCE AND CRIME DETECTION
Story by GARDNER FOX
Art by FRANK SPRINGER SID GREENE

WHEW! WHAT AN INVOLVED WAY TO TRY AND GET RID OF YOU, BATMAN!
TOO INVOLVED, TO MY WAY OF THINKING, ROBIN!
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE THAT...
OOOH! I DID GET A PICTURE--
MISS, YOU WERE ABOUT TO TAKE MY PICTURE! DID YOU--?
I- I DON'T KNOW! THE BLAST CAME SO SUDDENLY, I INSTINCTIVELY TURNED AWAY!
YOU TURNED AWAY-- BUT PERHAPS YOUR CAMERA DIDN'T!
LET'S SEE IF YOUR RAPID-PRINT CAMERA CAUGHT ANYTHING!
--SHOWING A MESSAGE-- INSIDE THE BLAST! TAKE A LOOK, ROBIN!
WHY IS A DIAMOND LIKE A STEW?
SO THE RIDDLER WAS BEHIND THIS!
LOOKS LIKE THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS HAS COME UP WITH A NEW METHOD OF SENDING US HIS CRIME-CONUNDRUMS!
A NEW AND VERY DEADLY METHOD, ROBIN!

THE RIDDLER IS UNDER A PSYCHOTIC COMPULSION TO GIVE ME A RIDDLE CLUE WHENEVER HE PLANS TO COMMIT A ROBBERY!
IF HE DOESN'T--HE CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH THE CRIME! *
BUT NOW--HE'S DEVISED A GIMMICKY WAY OF GIVING ME A RIDDLE--AND AT THE SAME TIME PREVENTING ME FROM READING IT AND FOLLOWING IT UP!
*AS DEMONSTRATED IN BATMAN #179!
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT SALESLADY AND HER CAMERA--WE'D BE LEAVING THE BOOKSTORE WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST IDEA THAT THE RIDDLER IS ON THE LOOSE AGAIN!
MEANTIME, I'VE SOLVED--"WHY IS A DIAMOND LIKE A STEW?"
THE ANSWER IS THEY EACH HAVE CARATS (CARROTS)!
AND SINCE CARAT IS A UNIT OF WEIGHT FOR DIAMONDS--
THE RIDDLER'S GOING TO ROB THE CARAT DIAMOND CENTER!
NOT SO FAST, ROBIN! THE RIDDLER IS A TRICKY CUSTOMER! REMEMBER--A KARAT--WITH A "K"--IS ALSO A MEASURE OF WEIGHT FOR GOLD!
SO LET'S EXAMINE OUR RIDDLE-CLUE FOR HIDDEN MEANINGS!
I NOTICED THERE WERE 22 LETTERS IN THE RIDDLE! AND 22-KARAT GOLD IS THE MOST VALUABLE COMMERCIAL TYPE GOLD USED!
ANOTHER CLUE--NORLAND IS THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK ON THE CARD SENT TO ME!
. AND A PROMINENT COLLECTOR OF GOLD COINS IN GOTHAM CITY IS A MR. NORLAND!
THAT'S WHERE THE RIDDLER IS MAKING HIS STRIKE!
SOMEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY AT THIS MOMENT--A MAN IS GROWLING IN MINGLED RAGE AND FRUSTRATION...
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, RIDDLER!
SAVE YOUR BREATH, NORLAND! I'VE PLANNED THIS CRIME SO PERFECTLY--NOT EVEN BATMAN CAN STOP ME!

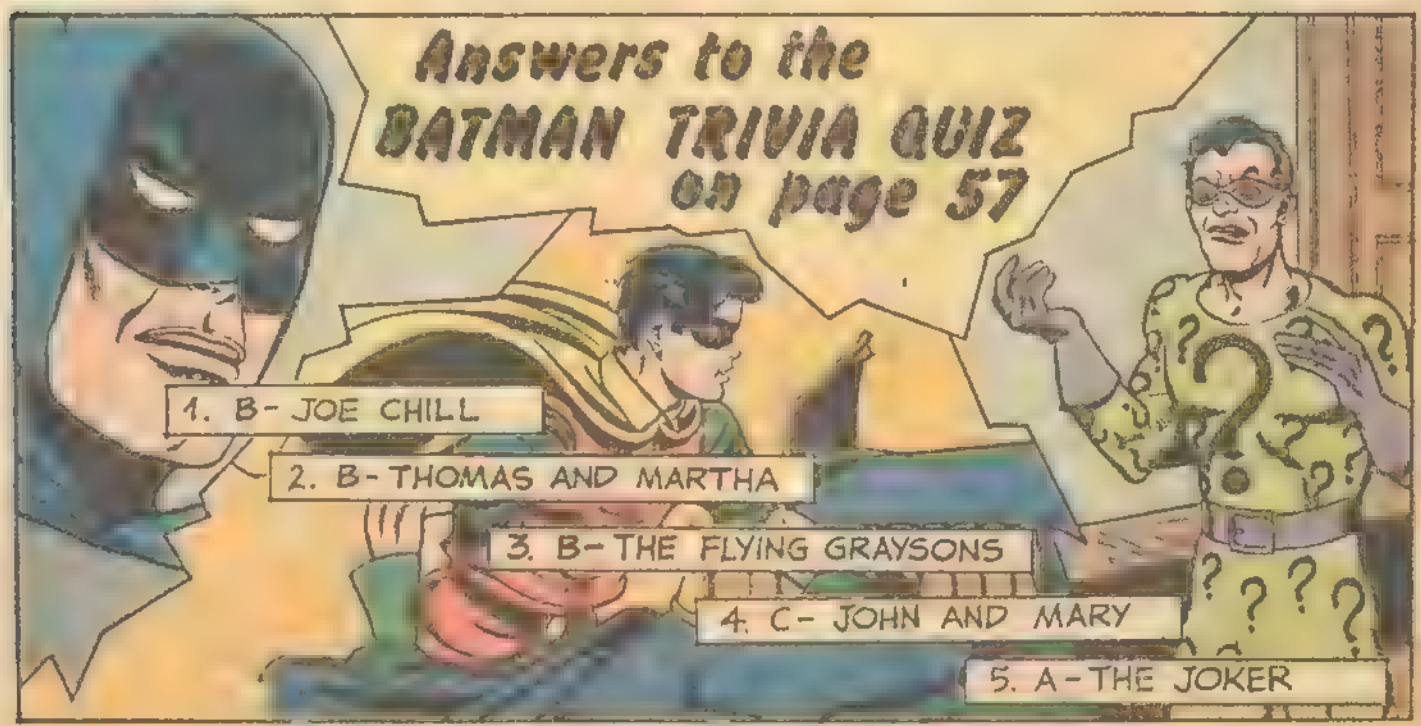
YES, SIR--I'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO OUTWIT THAT THINK-TANK BATMAN USES FOR A BRAIN!
SINCE I MUST GIVE HIM A RIDDLE--I DO! BUT THIS TIME--THREE FACTORS ARE WORKING FOR ME--AND AGAINST BATMAN!
FIRST, I PREPARED MY RIDDLE SO BATMAN WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY EVEN SEEING IT!
SECOND, EVEN IF HE MANAGES TO SEE IT, THE RESULTING BOOBY-TRAP WILL PREVENT HIM FROM FOLLOWING IT UP!
THIRD, EVEN IF HE SHOULD OVERCOME THESE BOTTLENECKS, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE IN TIME TO STOP MY CRIME!
TOO BAD I COULDN'T HANG AROUND THAT BOOKSTORE TO SEE THAT VOLUME I GIMMICKED BLOW UP IN HIS FACE! WHEN THE RIDDLE APPEARED WITHIN THE BLAST, HE MUST'VE BEEN TOO BLIND TO SEE IT!
AH, THIS IS THE 20-FRANC GOLD PIECE WITH WHICH NAPOLEON REPLACED THE FORMER GOLD LOUIS D'OR...
A TAUNTING VOICE ECHOES THE TRIUMPHANT CRY OF THE RIDDLER AS..
NAPOLEON HAD HIS WATERLOO, RIDDLER--AND SO WILL YOU!
WHA--?!
YOU'RE GOING OFF THE GOLD STANDARD, RIDDLER..
4

THE COIN CAME DOWN-- TAILS, RIDDLER-- YOU LOSE!
KLANG!
THOSE BAGS OF COINS CARRY A LOTTA WEIGHT, BATMAN!
BETTER GET IN JUDO-- POSITION FOR...
THE YOKO WAKARE!
ENGLISH TRANSLATION-- THE SIDE-SEPARATION!
5

THAT TAKES CARE OF A COUPLE OF THE RIDDLER'S ROGUES...
TO ONE SIDE OF THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER, HIS ABLE ADOLESCENT ASSISTANT IS CARRYING ON AS USUAL...
GOT CHANGE FOR A "FIVER", PAL?
FIVE'LL GETCHA TEN, ROBIN!
ALL I KNOW IS--YOU'RE GOING DOWN FOR THE COUNT!
WATCH IT, ROBIN! RIDDLER'S GOT ONE OF HIS PUZZLE-WEAPONS LEVELED AT US!
THEN FROM THE SHADOWS WHERE THE ENRAGED RIDDLER HAS WATCHED THE FISTIC FINISH OF HIS PUZZLE-CLUED PLAN...
THIS GUN SAYS YOUR FUN'S OVER!
6

NEXT INSTANT, THE WOODEN PUZZLE-PISTOL ERUPTS IN A TORRENT OF LIGHTNINGS...
A TRICKY ELECTRICAL DISPLAY, RIDDLER--BUT WE HAVE A COUNTER-TRICK OF OUR OWN!
FOUR HANDS DART INTO NEARBY COIN-BAGS--SPRAY THE AIR WITH LIRA PIECES, SPANISH EXCELLENTES, AND GOLDEN DUCATS...
THE METAL IN THOSE COINS WILL DRAW THE ELECTRICITY TOWARD THEM!
JUST LIKE MINIATURE LIGHTNING RODS!
A LOADED ACE, I'LL BET!
I'VE STILL GOT AN ACE UP MY SLEEVE!
HE CAN USE IT ON ONLY ONE OF US, ROBIN!
WHO'S IT GOING TO BE, RIDDLER?
HE HESITATED JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US TO GET HIM!

I DEMAND MY RIGHTS! I'M ENTITLED TO ONE PHONE CALL!
A LAWYER WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD, RIDDLER! WE CAUGHT YOU WITH THE GOODS!
PIPE DOWN, YOU TEEN-AGED TROUBLE-MAKER! I'M NOT CALLING MY LAWYER! I'M GOING TO TELEPHONE MY BONDSMAN!
WITH MY USUAL FORESIGHTEDNESS, I DEPOSITED A LARGE AMOUNT OF CASH WITH A BONDSMAN -- WHO WILL PUT IT UP AS SECURITY FOR MY BAIL!
IT WON'T BE LONG TILL I GET OUT OF YOUR JAIL CELL -- FREE ONCE AGAIN TO GO ABOUT MY BUSINESS!
AS THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS IS LED OFF TO HIS CELL...
DON'T OVERREACH YOURSELF, RIDDLER! IF YOU COMMIT A CRIME WHILE OUT ON BAIL, YOU'LL FORFEIT IT AND BE KEPT IN JAIL UNTIL TRIAL!
SKIP YOUR UNASKED-FOR ADVICE, BATMAN! I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING!
BUT YOU'LL NEVER KNOW -- UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO GO TO JAIL TOO!
HAS THE RIDDLER CRACKED UNDER THE BURDEN OF HIS CONUNDRUM CRIMES? BATMAN -- GO TO JAIL -- INCREDIBLE! OR -- IS IT? STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE FOLLOWING!

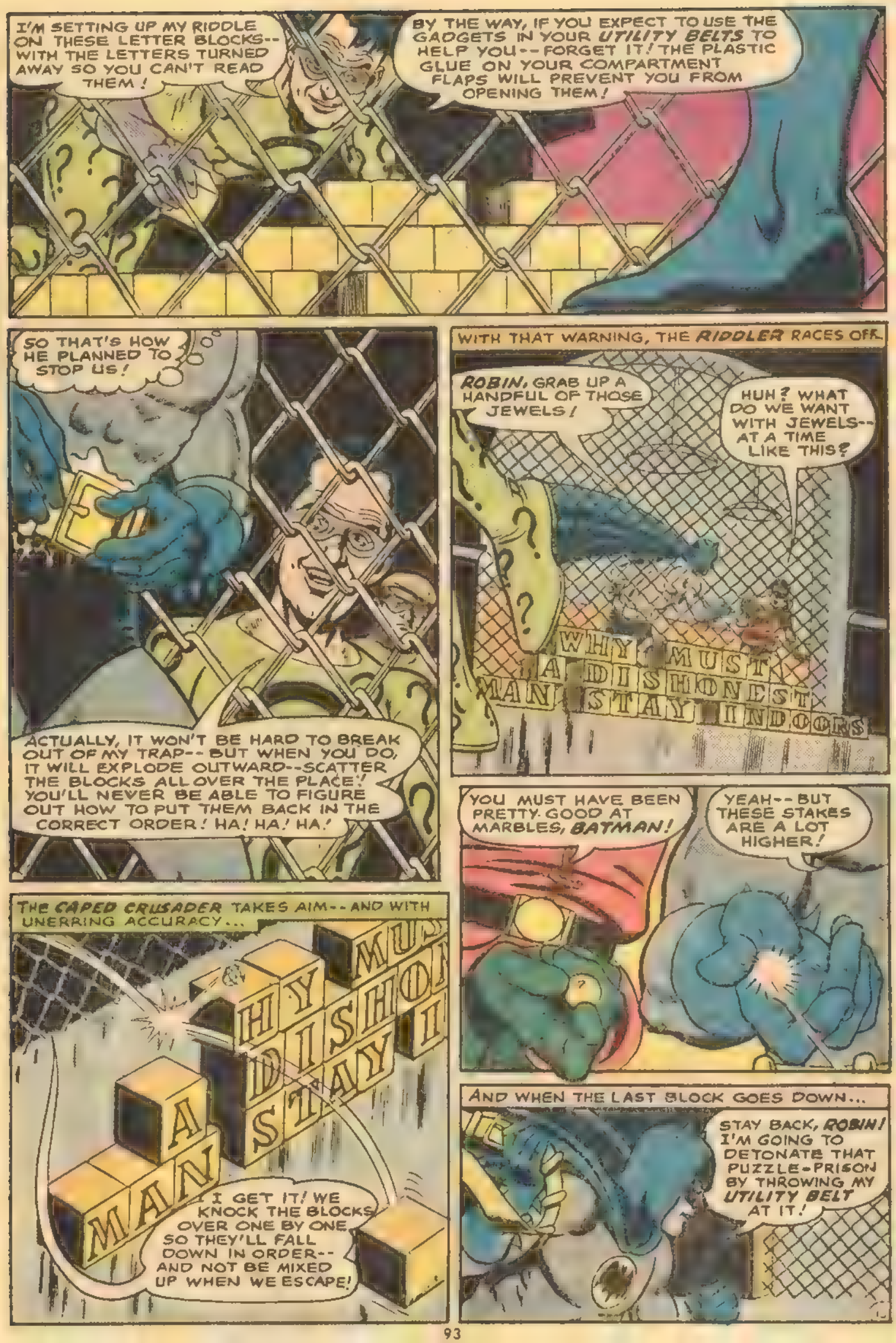

Answers to the BATMAN TRIVIA QUIZ on page 57
1. B- JOE CHILL
2. B- THOMAS AND MARTHA
3. B- THE FLYING GRAYSONS
4. C- JOHN AND MARY
5. A- THE JOKER

BY THE TIME THE DYNAMIC DUO COMPLETES ITS POLICE REPORT...
AH, THERE YOU ARE, BATMAN! MY BONDSMAN'S BEEN HERE AND GONE--SO I'M OUT OF THAT CELL!
SO I SEE, RIDDLER! I ALSO SEE THAT--IT'S MY TURN TO GO TO JAIL, AS YOU SAID!
BATMAN! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS?
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO GO TO JAIL?
BECAUSE HE HAS NO OTHER CHOICE, ROBIN!
THE HOLLOW CLANG OF METAL AND THE CLICK OF A LOCK--AND...
CLANG
IF BATMAN WANTS IT THAT WAY, IT MUST BE THE RIGHT WAY!
YOU'RE BEHIND BARS WHERE YOU BELONG, BATMAN!
AND WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE RIDDLER...
OKAY--NOW WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE, BATMAN?
TO LOOK FOR BLACK SPECKS, ROBIN!
B-BLACK SPECKS? WHAT KIND OF BLACK SPECKS?
EVIDENTLY YOU DIDN'T NOTICE THAT ONE OF RIDDLER'S QUESTION MARKS ON HIS UNIFORM WAS MISSING WHEN HE CAME OUT OF HIS CELL!
THAT MEANS THE QUESTION MARK IS STILL IN HIS CELL--MOST LIKELY IN THE FORM OF BLACK SPECKS!
9

HERE THEY ARE, JUST UNDER A MIRROR! HMMM! THEY HAVE AN UNUSUAL ACRID SMELL--INDICATING THE RIDDLER'S PREPARED ANOTHER OF HIS "INVISIBLE" CONUNDRUMS FOR ME!
AND WHAT BETTER PLACE THAN ON THIS MIRROR--INSCRIBED WITH INVISIBLE INK BY WAY OF HIS UNIFORM'S QUESTION MARK!
ROBIN--GET ME A MATCH! I NEED HEAT TO MAKE THE WRITING VISIBLE...
SHORTLY...
:UHHN: KNOCKOUT GAS--COMING FROM THE WRITING ON THE MIRROR! :GASP:
ROBIN... CARRY ON... :CHOKE:
A RIDDLE--APPEARING ON THE MIRROR--
WHY IS A ROOM FILLED ONLY WITH MARRIED PEOPLE LIKE AN EMPTY ROOM?
LEAST I CAN DO FOR BATMAN IS HAVE THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE BY THE TIME HE COMES TO--
LATER, AS THE GOTHAM GANG-BUSTERS LEAVE THE POLICE STATION--
"WHY IS A ROOM FILLED ONLY WITH MARRIED PEOPLE LIKE AN EMPTY ROOM?"
IT HASN'T A SINGLE PERSON IN IT! THE ANSWER I'VE GOT--BUT ITS HIDDEN MEANING I CAN'T SEE--
WE'LL BREAK IT DOWN--BIT BY BIT...
POLI
10

TO START OFF--A "SINGLE PERSON" IS A BACHELOR!
IF THAT'S THE RIDDLER'S VICTIM--HOW OF ALL THE GOTHAM CITY BACHELORS CAN WE HOPE TO FIND--
UNLESS IT ISN'T A HUMAN BEING--!
RECENTLY I READ SOMETHING ABOUT A "BACHELOR" DIAMOND--
SO DID I! A LARGE DIAMOND THAT A MAHARAJAH IN INDIA HAD CUT INTO AN ENGAGEMENT RING MANY YEARS AGO--
AND IT'S ON DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM OF INDIA!
BUT HE NEVER MARRIED THE GIRL! EVER SINCE, IT'S BEEN KNOWN AS THE BACHELOR DIAMOND!
AT GOTHAM CITY'S MUSEUM OF INDIA, SOMEWHAT LATER...
AHHH! THE BACHELOR DIAMOND--ALL MINE!
TO HOLD, BUT NOT TO KEEP, RIDDLER!
B-BATMAN! GLUE-CONTAINERS! HOW CAN THAT STOP US?
WE CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT, ROBIN!
HURRY--OVERPOWER THESE TWO--AND GET TO THE RIDDLER!
11

AFTER DEPOSITING THEIR FOE'S KAYOED MUSCLEMEN OUTSIDE THE DIAMOND VAULT...
ALL RIGHT, RIDDLER--YOU'RE NEXT!!
OVER--
AND--
EEE YAHHH!
OUT!
HA-HA! THAT SHOUT OF MINE ACTIVATED AN ELECTRONIC CONTROL--CAUSING AN INTERLOCKED NAILS-PUZZLE GRATING TO DROP FROM THE ARCHWAY!
YOU'RE TRAPPED INSIDE THE VAULT!
SHALL I FINISH 'EM OFF NOW, RIDDLER?
CLANG!
NO, NO, FOOL! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO ROB UNLESS I LEAVE BATMAN AND ROBIN A RIDDLE-CLUE TO MY CAPERS!
IF THEIR LIVES COME TO AN END, SO DOES MY CRIME-CAREER!
WITH THEM HELPLESSLY PENNED INSIDE THE PUZZLE-PRISON, WE CAN PROCEED TO MY NEXT PLANNED ROBBERY!
12


I'M SETTING UP MY RIDDLE ON THESE LETTER BLOCKS-- WITH THE LETTERS TURNED AWAY SO YOU CAN'T READ THEM!
BY THE WAY, IF YOU EXPECT TO USE THE GADGETS IN YOUR UTILITY BELTS TO HELP YOU-- FORGET IT! THE PLASTIC GLUE ON YOUR COMPARTMENT FLAPS WILL PREVENT YOU FROM OPENING THEM!
SO THAT'S HOW HE PLANNED TO STOP US!
ACTUALLY, IT WON'T BE HARD TO BREAK OUT OF MY TRAP-- BUT WHEN YOU DO, IT WILL EXPLODE OUTWARD--SCATTER THE BLOCKS ALL OVER THE PLACE! YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO PUT THEM BACK IN THE CORRECT ORDER! HA! HA! HA!
WITH THAT WARNING, THE RIDDLER RACES OFF.
ROBIN, GRAB UP A HANDFUL OF THOSE JEWELS!
HUH? WHAT DO WE WANT WITH JEWELS-- AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
WHY MUST A DISHONEST MAN STAY INDOORS
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY GOOD AT MARBLES, BATMAN!
YEAH-- BUT THESE STAKES ARE A LOT HIGHER!
THE CAPED CRUSADER TAKES AIM-- AND WITH UNERRING ACCURACY...
I GET IT! WE KNOCK THE BLOCKS OVER ONE BY ONE SO THEY'LL FALL DOWN IN ORDER-- AND NOT BE MIXED UP WHEN WE ESCAPE!
AND WHEN THE LAST BLOCK GOES DOWN...
STAY BACK, ROBIN! I'M GOING TO DETONATE THAT PUZZLE-PRISON BY THROWING MY UTILITY BELT AT IT!

KA-BLAM!
AND WHEN THE BLOCK-LETTERS ARE UP-TURNED...
"WHY MUST A DISHONEST MAN STAY INDOORS"?
SO--NO ONE CAN EVER FIND HIM OUT!
NOW TO UNCOVER ITS SECRET MEANING...
"NO ONE" MIGHT BE READ AS "NUMBER ONE"!
AND THERE'S A "CANEVER STREET"--JUST "OUT" SIDE OF TOWN--THE ADDRESS OF THE ARTISTIC GLASS COMPANY!
SHORTLY, AT NUMBER ONE CANEVER STREET...
AH! PERFECT SPECIMENS OF THE GLASSMAKER'S ART--EACH WORTH THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS!
A WELCOME ADDITION TO MY COLLECTION OF ARTISTIC AMERICANA!
TRY THIS COLLECTION OF FISTIC AMERICANA, RIDDLER!
THIS IS ONE JAIL-SITUATION YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BAIL OUT OF!
14

LATER, IN THE RIDDLER'S LONELY JAIL CELL...
WHAT KIND OF KEY IS A STUPID ANIMAL?
A DONKEY--LIKE ME! WHEN WILL I LEARN NOT TO TRY AND OUTWIT BATMAN?
The End.

NEXT ISSUE

BATMAN

NO 261 MAR-APR

THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER IN A BAFFLING NEW SHOCKER--

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"A CHRISTMAS PERIL!"

"THE BLOCKBUSTER INVASION OF GOTHAM CITY!"

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN DECEMBER

S-1869

LETTERS to the BATMAN

Dear Julie:

He returns! Just like a bad penny he turns up again in the pages of **Batman**! That enigmatic split-personality that determines his actions by the flip of his infamous two-headed coin! **Two-Face**!

What a joy it was to see him pitted against **The Batman** again. Of all of **Batman's** foes, **Two-Face**, with the possible exception of the **Joker**, is the most thrilling and dangerous. Not locked in an ordinary jail cell; no, the demented Harvey Dent is confined in Arkham Hospital: **Arkham**! The legendary dwelling of some of the most tormented souls in fiction, made famous by the slime-dipped pen of H.P. Lovecraft!

The new **Two-Face** tale, "Threat of the Two-Headed Coin," held much joy for me . . . and a few personal surprises. I was especially pleased because **I have been Two-Face**—not once but, more aptly, **twice**! At both the 1973 and 1974 Comic Art Conventions in New York I donned the slit-suit and flipped the two-headed coin in front of the crowd at the annual costume event. Most ironically, in my **second** year as **Two-Face**, the judges awarded me **second** place! Maybe it was no accident that the villain's liberator in the story was named "John Harris"!

As for the story itself, it was quite enjoyable. **Two-Face** was in true demented form, and **The Batman** was his usual clever self. A few minor points did bother me. I commend you for coloring **Two-Face's** scarred side green, as it was in the original stories in **Detective Comics** 66, 68 and 80 some 32 years ago; reaching back to original concepts is very good. It worked superbly with **The Batman** himself. However, if you do back to those original stories please retain the elements that lend more quality to the character. The green color is not one of those factors. The later stories colored his face purple or grey. This is much more frightening and accurate. What **should** be brought back from those early days are his split-suit and perhaps his tormented fiancee Gilda, who loved him through his scars.

It was good to see him again and I wish for more in the near future.

JACK "TWO-FACE" HARRIS, Wilmington, Delaware

(As an observor at both costume events, ye editorial assistant can attest to the fearsome authenticity of Mr. Harris' doubly-demonic portrayal. It was accurate down to the last button on the double-breasted split-suit!—GHLIII)

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

"Two-Face gone? That secret, **Brave and Bold** ones, is locked in the glacier's icy heart! Who knows if this is really . . . **The End**" (**Brave and Bold #106**). Huh? What? How did **Two-Face** get locked up in Arkham Hospital? He fell off a cliff!

Please pass on word two Denny O'Neil that his "borey" (oops—I meant "story) was a big fat **zero**. It was way two diabolical four me. It really made me six . . . uh . . . I mean "sick." Especially when Harris jumped out the window. How stupidly melodramatic—but it was certainly a "smash"! Without a doubt, Denny one the **Boo-Boo** award four '74 with **that** story!

KEN WOLF, Yorktown, N.Y.

(Instead of cooper-EIGHT-ing with this Big Bad Wolf's number puns, we PERRY his complaint through out next reader!—GHLIII)

. . . . .

Dear Julie:

Batman #258 was, in my opinion, a fine issue, although I'm sure many people will ask, "How did **Two-Face** come back to life? He fell into a glacier in **Brave and Bold #106**!" Well, I have an answer. Nelson Bridwell has already stated, in **Action's** lettercol, that **B&B #106's** tale was **imaginary** regarding **Green Arrow's** financial situation. I say that **every** fact was false, including **Two-Face's** death.

All in all, Denny O'Neil's "Threat of the Two-Headed Coin" was excellent. The "numbers" theme of **#258** was also very good. Themes are great in these 100-page issues. With that many pages every bi-monthly issue, **Batman** needs all the good ideas he can get!

PERRY WILSON, Sonora, Calif.

(If you want to call TWO-FACE's "demise" imaginary . . . or say that it took place on an ALTERNATE EARTH . . . or BEFORE our "Two-Headed Threat" . . . that's fine with us. However, OUR theory is that TWO-FACE merely consulted the great textbook for movie monsters and returning villains of all media, "How to Look Like You're Dying Without Really Trying," before strapping on his BRAVE AND BOLD skis!—GHLIII)

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

"Threat of the Two-Headed Coin" really meant a lot to me. Along with **Batman**, it had **Robin**, the

Teen Wonder! To blazes with all the super-serious people who dislike Batman and Robin as a team! Listen, Robin gives the youngsters someone to relate to. He also gives comedy relief to counteract Batman's somber character. He's also one heckuva crimebuster. I just can't picture Batman without Robin at his side in a fight.

I also liked the inclusion of two factors I've long missed. One was the reappearance of the famed Bat-signal. The other was Batman's scientific ingenuity. These two factors both helped build the Batman legend and they need to be seen more often.

STEVE THOMPSON, Urbana, Ohio

(Reader Thompson PSed that he will read this issue of BATMAN from Marine boot camp! Perhaps after the joys of basic training he'll have time to pay TEN-HUT to the points raised by our next correspondent!—GHLIII)

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

The graphics were perhaps the best, and therefore the only truly redeeming quality of "Threat of the Two-Headed Coin." Novick and Giordano rate as the best team outside of Adams and Giordano for Batman. Dick's obviously talented inks blend perfectly with the soft-lined style of Irv Novick.

Robin's relation to Batman was delineated in this yarn much better than in previous stories. He is still the relatively inexperienced junior member of the team, but he is not portrayed as a stumble-footed fool any longer. Of course, you can take the copout route, and imply that his inefficiency is due to his unfamiliarity with the "new" Batman character, his "identity crisis," and his long-suppressed inferiority complex re his prowess compared to his mentor's. However, I prefer to call it poor characterization.

The Batman seems at his best alone. The essence of his character is such that he operates on a different level alone as opposed to how he operates teamed with Robin. Alone he is the dread figure of vengeance he was meant to be. His concerns are not of a partner's welfare. He is strictly business.

ERIC M. MAHR, Williamsville, N.Y.

(Your briefing on the basic BAT-character is too right-on to be any MAHR on our record. One gargantuan gaffe missed the gaze of most of our audience, but trust lettercol regular Robert Rodi to leap on our mistakes like an eagle . . . or a ROBIN!—GHLIII)

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

Tut-tut, Denny O'Neil. After a long and illustrious career of writing only the most innovative and original tales in comicdom, don't tell me you're finally slipping into formula writing.

Batman . . . and Robin?!? Come now! In this story, Batman was neither the human, concerned crimefrighter nor the good-natured super-doer of the '60's. He was merely a cool, cyborg-like figure who went through the story like he was sleep-walking, and the last, dramatic scene was completely spoiled for me because he looked so ridiculous running around with one of his Bat-ears broken off.

Robin was being handled excellently, and actually spouting some realistic dialogue, for the first part of the story. I was really enjoying him. Then, right in the middle of the whole thing, Robin says "Hold it!" and walks right out of the story. I heard no school-bell ringing. Believe me, I've been reading Batman for many years, and Robin would never walk out in the middle of a case, no matter what the academic cost. Please do keep Robin in Batman, but only if you use him right.

BOB RODI, Oak Brook, Ill.

(Uhh . . . perhaps the TEEN WONDER has a pressing midterm in "Birds'-Nest Building II"! Yes? No?—GHLIII)

. . . . .

Dear Batmakers:

Batman #258 convinced me that the team of man and teenager that's been together so many years should finally break up. Robin's a man now himself, and he'll never be a hero on his own if he must play second fiddle to the Batman. On page 11, Robin gave in to "overwhelming odds," and I've seen Batman get by easily with more than four guys against him. Cripes, how's the Teen Wonder survived all these years? You might've thought you were giving Robin some action, but are you jivin'? One punch, a kick and some jiu jitsu—the fight's over. Big deal!

No, it's better the separate way.

DONNY HAMPTON, Kansas City, Mo.

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

Just exactly what is the color of Two-Face's eyes? In Batman #258, on page 4 last panel, he has a blue eye on the normal side of his face. On page six, last panel, he has a brown one. Which is right?

NICK YANGIS, Astoria, N.Y.

(We took this perturbing question to E. Nelson Bridwell, DC's walking encyclopedia of comic lore. According to him, "I haven't the slightest idea!" We suggest referring to the start of this column, and asking Jack Harris what color HIS eyes are!—GHLIII)

. . . . .

And now to the corner of the column we call THE REPRINT RENDEZVOUS!

"The Riddler's Prison-Puzzle Problem" is from DETECTIVE #377, July, 1968. "The Perfect Crime—Slightly Imperfect" originated in BATMAN #181, the June, '66 issue. "The Grade A Crimes" scored in BATMAN #16, April-May, 1943. "The Case Without a Crime" spawned in DETECTIVE #112, June, 1946, and "The Pearl of Peril" emerged in BATMAN #27, February-March, 1945!

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